

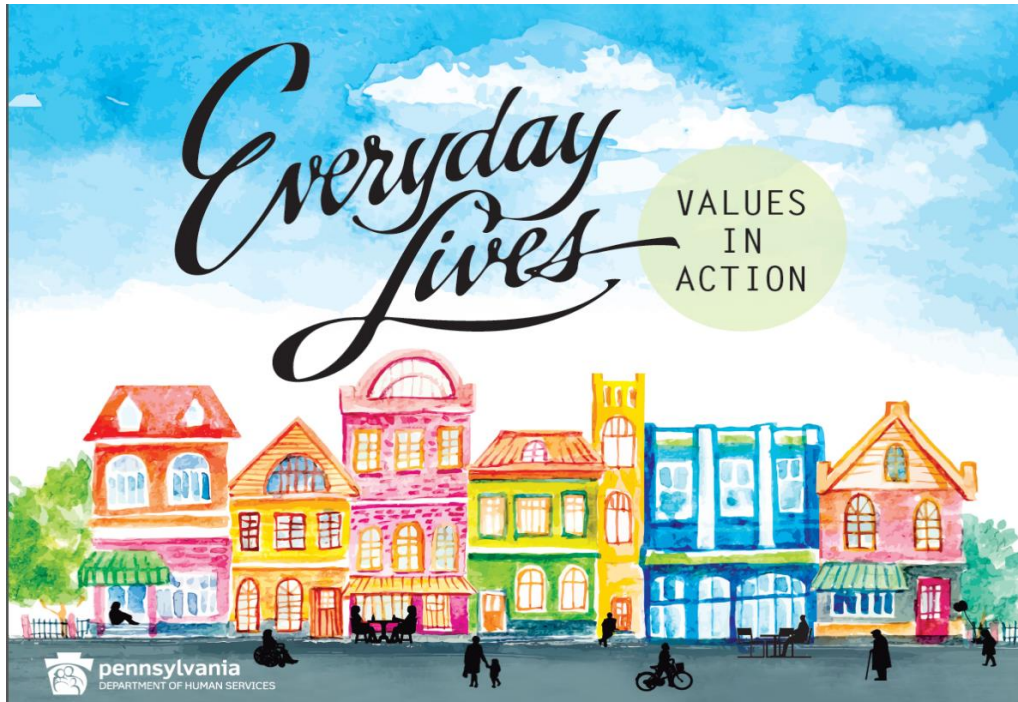
***Arc of PA Conference Panel:
Meeting the 21st Century Needs of
Pennsylvania's Business and Industry***

Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary
Office of Developmental Programs



Recommendation 3: Increase Employment

Employment is a centerpiece of adulthood and must be available for every person. The benefits of employment for people with disabilities are significant and are the same as for people without disabilities.



Major Activities Aimed at Increasing Employment

- Policy changes
 - Transformation of day services
 - Additional employment services (advanced supported employment & benefits counseling)
 - Pandemic related changes to delivery, allowable remote
- Training
 - Required certifications for employment providers
 - Transformation workshops & mentoring
- Adopting lifecourse principles
- Collecting and using data

Provider Transformation Training and Regional Learning Collaborative

- Joint initiative between ODP and OVR.
- Goal is to provide assistance to providers to transform their business model from facility-based services to a model that promotes and supports competitive integrated employment.
- National experts will provide training and technical assistance to selected providers.
- Target audience for technical assistance is leadership of Community Participation Support services.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR SUPPORTING FAMILIES



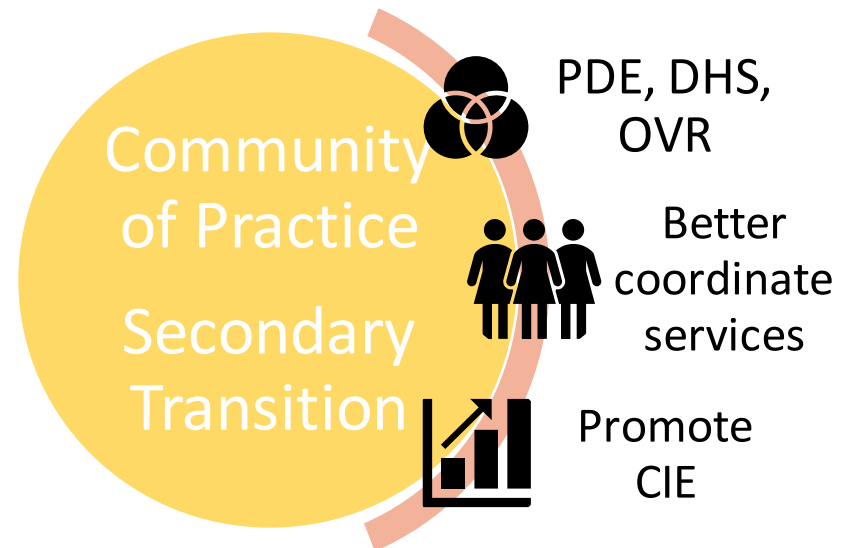
Daily Life and
Employment
(school/education,
employment, volunteering,
routines, life skills)



ODP participates on the state leadership team for the Community of Practice on Secondary Transition

Overarching goals for 2020-2021 plan are:

- Supporting students with complex needs
- Increasing competitive integrated employment outcomes (Benefits Counseling)



We Can Work!

Employment & Supportive Services for People with Disabilities in Pennsylvania

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/WeCanWork/Pages/WeCanWork.aspx>

The Employment Resource Collection from
ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources and
Training)

<https://paautism.org/resource/employment/>

MyODP Training and Resource Center

- <https://www.myodp.org/>
 - *Employment resources and trainings*
 - *ODP's Comprehensive Employment Reports*
 - *Services definitions*



Bringing autism resources together