

# Program Objectives

- Helping our students and their families with HS transition planning.
- Offer help with “navigating” adult service provider systems- MSC link
- Partnering with several school districts, 2 districts are currently part of the M.T.P.
- Person Centered Planning
- Offer Job coaching, Internship experience, life skills training, long term supports to schools
- Parent/educator empowerment through resource trainings and advocacy
- Innovative curriculum design and creative summer programming
- New! Student/ family Tour Experience: “Dream Book” a students experience.



# PROGRAM LOCATIONS

- *9A (Main office)*
- *Services provided throughout Westchester County*
- *Outreach offered to 42 school districts*
- *Home visits*
- *School visits*
- *Transition fairs county-wide*



# Individuals Served

- 60 plus families per year are offered regular connection with our services.
- 2009 - 93 students received services, many of those students and their families chose Westchester Arc as “provider of choice.”
- 2008- 64 students received services from 11 school districts.
- 2007- 59 students received services from 8 school districts.
  
- *Students ages: 14-22*
- *Primarily DD some LD ED*
- *Portal for new families*
- *Developed “Dream Catcher’s Learning Circle”*



# Staff Profile

- Director of Transition Services-  
M. Gonzalez (11 years specializing in design, development, and implementation of school to work programs. Focusing in curriculum, services contracting and general agency information.)
- Transitional Planner: Lynn Winfield (Masters Prepared NYS permanent certified licensed teacher.) 5 years specific experience in Special Education and teaching Reading and Writing
- Transitional Planner: Shana Finnerman (BA Teaching, Teaching certified, MA Teaching Cert. anticipated) 5 years specific experience with Nutritional Counseling, Special Education and Behavioral Therapy
- Job Coaches and Job Developers (3 shared positions)



# *Strategic Goals : Transition Services*

- Transition Services is focused on providing “informed choice” to students, educators, and families about services that direct a young persons future.
- Working to provide innovative and quality programs for students of today. Using person centered models we design programs to meet the needs of community based learning.
- Continue to be recognized as a strong contributor in our communities in regards to employment.
- Make outreach presentations to schools, and families in order to recruit students for transitional services, Life planning, Navigation (a new and limited service linking to MSC), vocational and day programs. Provide a link to programs/services for graduating students.

For more information or to answer questions  
about Westchester Arc Transition Services:

**Mashal Gonzalez**

**Transition Services Director**

• Please contact:

**914- 495- 4651 / [mgonzalez@westchesterarc.org](mailto:mgonzalez@westchesterarc.org)**



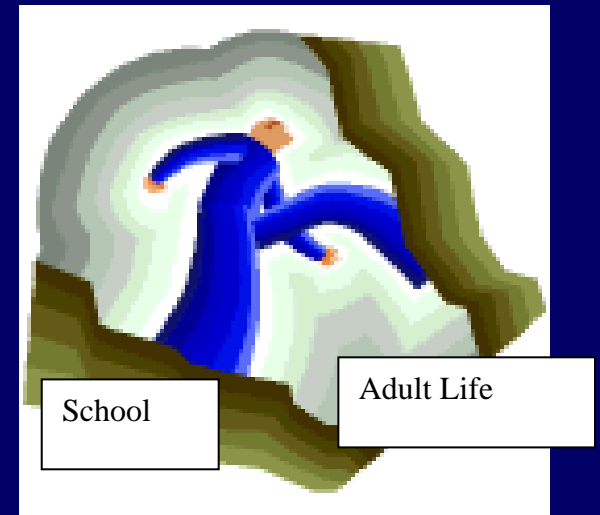
# Path to Employment

- Two years prior to graduation apply to **VESID** (Vocational Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities)
- Intake process determines disability eligibility
- May be sent for a DVE (diagnostic vocational evaluation)
- Will fund some college costs based on need
- Funds agencies to do intensive job development and coaching
- When “stabilized” coaching ends and “follow along”, SEMP (Supported employment ) begins
- The 2 contacts /month are either VESID or OMRDD funded



# Navigation from Arc

- Knowledgeable staff are available to help families navigate the highly complex OMRDD (Office of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities), Medicaid, SSI (Supplemental Security Income) systems
- This service is limited to the graduating students in their last year
- Life Planning staff can also help families



# NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

- OMRDD developmental disability criteria-MR IQ of 60 or less, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, neurological impairment, autism,
- permanent, occurred prior to 22, “substantial limitation in functional skills”
- Under age 8 time limited provisional eligibility



# OMRDD eligibility process

- Standardized psychological IQ test with adaptive behavior assessment within 2 years
- Social history
- Medical evaluations reflecting Developmental Disability within 1 year
- IEPs for school age children
- Submitted to WCDCMH or HVDDSO

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Federal program thru social security, designed to make up the difference between income and living expenses
- documentation of disability
- earnings of less than \$950/month
- less than \$2000 in assets,
- usually applied for at age 18
- Medicaid managed care comes with SSI eligibility

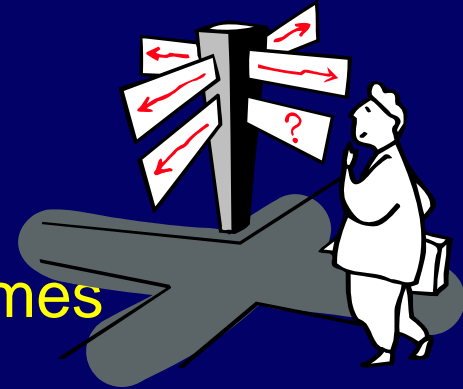


# Medicaid

- State insurance program covering medical bills, services, and equipment
- Pays for Medicaid Service Coordination, day programs, vocational supports, group homes
- Must have a disability , less than \$13,800 in assets if over 18
- Usually applied for at age 18 and comes automatically with SSI eligibility, but codes 1,10,19,21,23 must be obtained thru exemption

# Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC)

- A professional who helps you obtain services and supports
- The MSC will write an Individualized Services Plan (ISP), review it twice a year, meet monthly with person
- ISP identifies services desired
- MSC will act to find supports needed in the community like doctors, programs, group homes
- The MSC will apply for the HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) Waiver to fund most services.

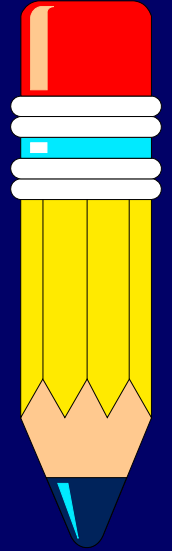


# Medicaid Waiver

- HCBS waiver was designed to provide support services
- Must annually meet doctor determined Level of Care to be placed in an ICF facility but person is “waiving” this option.
- **Supported Employment-paid employment support**
- Residential Habilitation-help at home
- Day Habilitation- help in the community
- Pre-vocational-work readiness training
- Respite-recreation, time out for parents
- E-mods- modifications to home and vans
- Consolidated Supports and Services-individualized budgets for day or home supports



# Resources



- Westchester Arc, [www.westchesterarc.org](http://www.westchesterarc.org)  
Life Planning Center Director Ralph Szur, 914-495-4620 [rszur@westchesterarc.org](mailto:rszur@westchesterarc.org)  
Amy Lieberman 914 495 4478 [alieberman@westchesterarc.org](mailto:alieberman@westchesterarc.org)  
Marshal Gonzalaz 914 495 4651 [mgonzalaz@westchesterarc.org](mailto:mgonzalaz@westchesterarc.org)  
Paul Stevelman parent mentor 203 870-5376 (cell)/ [Paul.Stevelman@RBS.com](mailto:Paul.Stevelman@RBS.com)  
Wellness Center Director Tibi Guzman 914 495 -4530 [tguzman@westchesterarc.org](mailto:tguzman@westchesterarc.org)
- Westchester County Community Mental Health, [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)  
Mathew Faulkner, Register for services 914-995-5253
- Westchester County Children's Mental Health, [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com)  
Betsy Litt, 914 995 7458, [bal4@westchestergov.com](mailto:bal4@westchestergov.com)
- VESID [vocational services] 914-946-1313, [www.vesid.nysed.gov](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov)
- Family Connection [parent support network] 914-493-1343
- Hudson Valley DDSO [Office of Mental Retardation Developmental Disabilities]  
914-914-332-8989 [www.omr.state.ny.us/ws/ws\\_hudsonvalley\\_resources.jsp](http://www.omr.state.ny.us/ws/ws_hudsonvalley_resources.jsp)
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- NYS Education, Website [www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/transition](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/transition)