

Session I: Working with Community Agencies

Deciding Your Future Student Workshop

Authors: Joanna Keel, Molly Buren, and Jessica Hovland

In this workshop, students discuss interagency collaboration and support services both in the community and at colleges and universities. Students are provided a comprehensive overview of the various employment and support services available and are taken through the application process for vocational rehabilitation services. Additionally, students are given a brief overview of possible accommodations and modifications offered at the collegiate level. The goal of this activity is to facilitate students' understanding of what options and supports are available after high school and how to obtain what they need in a variety of settings. The remainder of the workshop focuses on application of these new, real-world skills through a problem-solving activity centered on simulated scenarios of students with IEPs exiting high school. Students are encouraged to discuss and strategize the scenarios in order to practice interactions with agencies, colleges, and community services.

Outline of Content:

I. Deciding Your Future

- Agencies Overview
- Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)
- Tips Sheet

II. College Services: Extending Your Education

- Support Services in College
- Activity: Practicing Self-Advocacy skills

Supplementary Material:

- Activity: Guiding Questions for Service Agencies
- Activity: "Deciding Your Future" Survey
- Activity: Student Simulated Scenarios and Charts

Presentation Plan:

1. Introduce the presentation and objectives.
2. Open discussion with "Why community agencies?" slide. Ask students what they know about community agencies. Have students first turn and talk to each other before sharing out with the whole group.
3. Create a definition as a group and review slide.
4. Go through agency slides and have students stop and highlight possible services they may need from DRS on the "categories of services" slide. Discuss with students.
5. Using the "sum it up" chart at the end of the PowerPoint, put students into small groups and give each group one to two scenarios.
6. Each group picks a recorder, reporter, and discussion director.
7. In groups, students fill out and discuss the chart. Once done, students complete "what about you" chart.
8. To reinforce how to obtain necessary services after high school, review the tips sheet and practice guiding questions for service agencies with students.
9. To prepare for the next student workshop, students can fill out the "Deciding Your Future" survey.

