

# Transition Planning Charting the LifeCourse

- ► Employment First: Expanding Job Opportunities and Pathways to Work, June 11, 2019
- ► Kerry Mahoney
- ▶The Arc of Massachusetts
- ► Mahoney@arcmass.org

## Person Centered vs Systems Centered Planning

## System Centered

- Puts the professional in control
- Distances people by emphasizing differences
- Budgets are structured to maintain investments in programs, building and property
- Focuses on deficits and labels
- Plans usually include 'placement' in a program
- Inflexible, offering a limited number of programs options

#### Person Centered

- Supports individuals in making decisions
- Brings people together by discovering common experience
- Budgets structured to provide individualized packages to support people
- Flexible, finding new possibilities unique to each person
- Focuses on capacities, goals, strengths & preferences



## Meet Chris

Verbal IQ = 51
Communication (Equivalent) = 4.9

Performance IQ = 48 Living Skill (Age Equivalent) = 6.0

Full Scale IQ = 45 Motor Skills (Age Equivalent) = 3.8

Classification: Intellectual Disability

Overall Adaptive Level: Low

Additional: Prone to Behavioral Outbursts

Moderate to Severe Hearing Impairment

Limited Verbal and/or Manual Expressive Skills

Limited Receptive Skills

Recommendations: Remain in Life Skills contained classroom until age 22 to further develop daily living skills and pre-vocational skills

Post-school Outcome: Acceptance and attendance in (the local) day habilitation day treatment program

## What is important to Chris

- Being around people who appreciate him
- Having a deep connection to family, his church and to people he considers to be his friends
- Enjoys helping others and seeks out opportunities to do this
- Has a strong work ethic and is quick to learn jobs
- Sensitive to the feelings and needs of others
- Loves animals

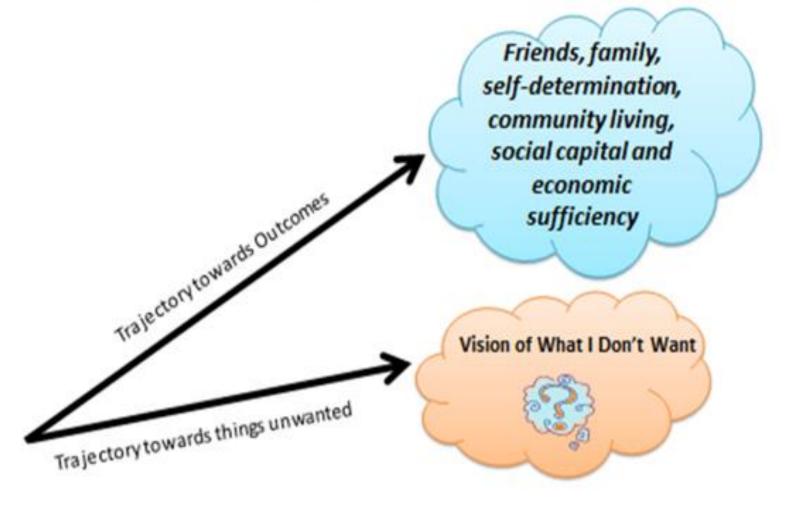


What people know and admire about Chris
Great sense of humor
Joyful and extremely likeable
He is very social
A hard worker

### How to best support Chris

- Provide opportunities to use his talents and varied interests
- He likes to keep busy and prefers to do things that allow him to be physically active
- Prefers to be with people who do not have disabilities
- Respecting his decisions and choices as he clearly makes his needs known

## **Trajectory towards Good Life**



#### Life Trajectory Worksheet:

Everyone wants a good life. The bubbles on the right will help you think about what a good life means for you or your family member, and identifying what you know you don't want. You can use the space around the arrows to think about current or needed life experiences that help point you in the direction of your good life.

Walking his dog
Doing chores
Helping Neighbors
Attending Church
Self advocacy class

Self contained special ed classes People who have low expectations for me













#### VISION for a GOOD LIFE

- Leave School with a job that provides opportunities in working with people and/or with animals in a job that includes physical activity
- Have more community connections and friends outside of school

#### What I DON'T Want

- A job where I sit and find boring
- People who do not listen to me
- Being part of a large group of people with disabilities
- Being isolated

## The Star: Integrating Supports

#### PERSONAL STRENGTHS & ASSETS

Person orfamily resources, abilities, strengths, characteristics

#### RELATIONSHIP-BASED

Family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, community members, church members

#### COMMUNITY-BASED

School, businesses, Church/faithbased, public transportation, Parks and recreation

## INTEGRATED SUPPORTS

TECHNOLOGY-BASED i-pad/smart phone apps, remote monitoring, cognitive accessibility, adaptive equipment

#### **ELIGIBILITY-BASED**

Disability Services, Special Education Medicaid, Housing, Food Stamps, Vocational rehab Technology
Cell phone
Banking App
App for
reminders
UBER App

Strengths

Social
A hard worker
Likes to help others
Great sense of humor
Loves animals
Quick to learn

Relationships
Mom and Dad
Brother
Grandparents
His dog
Friends at school
People from church

Chris Age 18

Community

Local YMCA
Family Church
Local Youth Programs
Favorite pizza shop
Horse stable

Supports and Services
School Support- IEP, job coach, travel
training
Eligible for DDS Services
Family Support, companion, flexible funds

## Chris' Outcomes

Chris became a member of the local YMCA where he plays basketball, swims, lifts weights, etc

Chris established connections with critical adult service providers to plan needed services

Three part-time jobs:

Assistant sexton in his church

General staff member at a local Pizza Hut restaurant Host in a neighborhood diner

Chris began exchanging stable hand services at a local horse stable in lieu of riding lessons

Chris opened a bank account and began to learn basic principles of money management