

Transition Terminology & Glossary

A

ADA/Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) – The civil rights act for persons with disabilities.

Accommodations: practices and procedures in the areas of presentation, response, setting and timing/scheduling that provide instructional and assessment access for students with disabilities. Provides access; does not reduce learning expectations.

Addiction – Physical or psychological dependence on a substance, with lack of the substance causing withdrawal symptoms.

ADL/Activities of Daily Living – Basic skills such as housekeeping, meal planning and preparation, money management, arranging social activities, use of public transportation and self-medication.

Advocacy – speaking for or urging a cause, such as equal access to community services

Aging Out – term applying to a student who is nearing the end of his/her school career. It is generally used in regard to students who have severe disabilities and who will require programs and services into their adult years.

Assertive Community Treatment- This intense service can help you if you are at a point where you have a high risk of frequent hospitalizations, jail or homelessness. ACT is designed as a short term way to get you back on track toward your goals while staying in the community and to help you reach a less intense level of service.

Assistive Technology Device – any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf, modified or customized, that increases maintains, or improves functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

C

Career/Vocational Assessment – The systematic collection of information about the student's vocational aptitudes, abilities, expressed interest, and occupational awareness used in planning his or her transition to competitive employment or postsecondary education.

Caregiver – One who looks after or takes charge of a person.

Case Management- Case management can connect you with the services you may need. This can be especially helpful when you are moving from a hospital or nursing home into the community. Mental health center staff can help you to find medical, child welfare, employment and other services you might need to live independently.

CBI: Community Based Instruction – integrating students into their community as part of their education.

Community-Based – Services provided in a non-institutional setting, preferably in an individual's home community.

Community-Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) – A living arrangement in which eight or fewer individuals with a mental disability reside under supervision and are provided with an array of services.

Community Support (mental health)- This is support provided more in the community than at the mental health center. It can help you put skills you have learned into practice so you can live, work, learn and participate fully in your own community.

Community Supported Living Arrangement (SLA) – Provision of supports and services designed to help an individual live in his/her own home or apartment in a community near

significant others.

Community Residence – a facility in the community providing room, board, and clinical supervision and homelike environment. Two examples are group homes and halfway houses.

Competitive Employment – a job in the community in which the hiring, salary, and job description, and evaluations are handled equally for all employees.

Counseling – advice or guidance provided by trained, licensed professionals such as a psychiatrist, psychologist, or a social worker.

Crisis Intervention – assisting individuals and/or their families in emergency situations, for example, housing, medical, and/or psychiatric needs.

Crisis Residence – Provides time-limited shelter and support services for individuals with a mental illness who are experiencing a crisis.

D

Day Treatment – A planned combination of broad diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitated services provided during daytime hours while the person with a mental illness lives at home or in a community residence.

Detoxification – The process of restoring physiological functioning after it has been seriously disturbed by alcohol, drugs, or other addictive substances.

Developmental Disability – A severe, chronic disability which: a) is mental or physical impairment or combination of the two; b) occurs before the age of 22; c) is likely to continue; d) results in limitations in three or more areas of major life activity, including: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; e) reflects the need for special, interdisciplinary care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned or coordinated. A person with developmental disabilities is someone who has not progressed at the “standard” rate in acquiring skills in motor, adaptive, communicative, and social areas. The four disabilities most common to individuals diagnosed as having developmental disability include epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism, and mental retardation.

Developmental Training (D.T.) – A post-secondary day program in which skills for independent living are developed and enhanced through repetitive learning activities. Programs include motor development, dress and grooming, toileting, eating, language, reading and writing, quantitative skill development, independent living reduction of maladaptive behavior, and vocational preparation.

Diagnosis (Primary) – The name of the major conditions (physical, developmental, or mental) for which a person is being treated.

Diagnosis (Secondary) – The name of an additional or secondary condition (physical, developmental, or mental) for which a person is being treated.

DHS: Department of Human Services – This department provides a wide array of services for people who are economically and socially disadvantaged. The department also supervises residential facilities to protect the rights of clients and ensure adequate levels of care.

Dual Diagnosis – A term referring to individuals having diagnoses in one (or more) of the following: mental illness, mental retardation or developmental disabilities, or substance abuse.

Dysfunctional – The inability or impaired ability of a body part or system to function as

expected.

E

Educational Surrogate Parent – A person who is appointed to serve as a parent representative to the school, for a student receiving special education services, when parental rights have been terminated or the parents/guardians are unknown or cannot be located.

Emotional Disability – A term that refers to students who have difficulties in school that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.

F

FamilyCare – Offers healthcare coverage to parents living with their children 18 years old or younger. FamilyCare also covers relatives that are caring for children in place of their parents.

Family Directed Planning – A planning process in which the student and the student's family are the team leaders.

Family Support Groups – Self-help groups for family members who have a relative with a disability.

Functional Disability – a diminished ability to perform independently in specific areas of living. This conclusion is based on a functional assessment.

G

Group Home – See community residence

Guardianship – A court proceeding that grants decision-making authority for an adult with a significant cognitive disability to a third party (e.g., parent is granted decision-making power over their child's finances).

H

Halfway House – A supervised community residence or group home for individuals recovering from mental illness after they have been discharged from the hospital and before they are able to live independently.

Hearing Disability – a student with a deficiency in hearing sensitivity, as demonstrated by an elevated threshold of auditory sensitivity to pure tones or speech where, even with the help of amplification, the student is prevented from receiving reasonable benefit from general education.

Home-based Support - Provides service to persons with severe disabilities so that they can remain in their homes and be as independent as possible.

Hospitalization – placement into a large residential facility, generally operated by a government agency. Usually refers to a developmental center or psychiatric center.

Housing and Shelter Allowances – Cash grants or vouchers to help people provide for housing needs.

I

IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – reauthorization of PL 94-142. These are the federal regulations that govern special education, IEP, and transition services.

IDT: Intensive Day Treatment – An educational program designed to support children and

adolescents who are not currently dangerous and who are experiencing a crisis at home and/or school. The program provides short-term, intensive intervention, treatment, and educational support. The goal of the IDT program is to return the student to the home school within 30 days.

IEP: Individualized Education Program – The written plan designed to help develop specific educational goals for the child with disabilities. It identifies the disability; describes the child’s strengths and areas of need; lists goals that the child should reach in a year’s time; includes short-term instructional objectives that represent a series of skills to master or goals to accomplish; and, identifies programs and services, including regular education, that the child will receive. The IEP is reviewed each year. From age 14 on, the IEP will also address transition needs and services.

IEP Team: A multidisciplinary team, including the student and parents that review evaluations and recommend special educational programs and services for children with disabilities.

In-home Respite/Respite Care – Services in the home of the person with a disability to relieve the usual caregiver (parent, spouse, sibling, etc.) of the care of the individual for a period of time.

Independent Living – living in a house or apartment alone or with others, but not with a family member or professional staff.

Intellectual Disability – below average intellectual functioning resulting in impaired learning, social adjustment, and maturation

Intensive Case Management (ICM) – intensive community support for individuals recovering from mental illness.

Intensive Psychiatric Rehabilitation – A time-limited program in which treatment staff and client develop a mutually agreed on plan that outlines specific goals, methods, and a timetable to help the client acquire the skills and support to live, work, learn, and participate in social relationships in the community.

Intensive Supportive Community Residence – A community residence program for persons recovering from mental illness that provides support through daily staff visits. Skills to be learned include meal preparation, shopping, laundry and cleaning.

Intervention: Systematic and explicit instruction provided to accelerate growth in an identified need.

Invisible Disability – a disability with no visible or obvious physical manifestation. A visible disability could include a missing limb or Down’s syndrome. An invisible disability could include schizophrenia or dyslexia.

Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) – a training plan written by a DVR counselor that leads to employment. Replaces the term IWRP.

J

Job - an immediate task, paid or unpaid.

Job Coach – A person who provides assistance to an individual with a disability to learn or maintain a job. This can include training and support at the job site. See supported Employment.

Job Training - program that prepares people for job opportunities.

L

Learning Disabled (LD) – a processing disorder that causes students to have a problem

listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, or doing arithmetic. A learning disability is not primarily due to the physical, mental, or emotional disability or to environmental, cultural or economic factors.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) – Requires that, to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities aged 3 through 21, in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled

Leisure Time Skills – generally refers to skills such as developing hobbies, making choices about what recreational or social activities to attend, deciding how to spend free time, and putting the ideas into action.

M

Medicaid – an Illinois program of monetary assistance for people who cannot afford to pay for medical care. Transportation and medical services are some of the activities that can be funded by Medicaid.

Medicare – a federal health insurance program mainly for persons aged 65 or older, with some limited benefits for younger persons who have been eligible for Social Security disability benefits for more than two years.

Mental Illness – a general term denoting disorders that affect feelings, thoughts, or behavior characterized by distressing symptoms or impaired functioning over a period of time.

Modifications: changing or reducing learning or assessment expectations.

Mobile Crisis Team – a team of mental health professionals who are available in an emergency to go into homes or programs to resolve critical problems.

Multi-Disciplinary Team – a group of professional and non-professional staff, such as teachers, nurses, social workers, doctors, speech therapists, physical therapists, etc. This team usually includes the family members and the consumer, the student, in the planning and decision-making process.

Multiple Disabilities – students with two or more areas of significant impairment one of which shall be cognitive impairment, except in some cases of deaf-blindness. Cognitive impairment shall mean significant limited intellectual capacity. The other areas of significant impairment include: *physical, visual, auditory, communicative, or emotional*. The combination of such impairments creates a unique condition that is evidenced through a multiplicity of needs, which prevent the student from receiving educational benefit from regular education.

N

Networking – sharing information or services among individuals, groups, or agencies.

Neurology – the field of medicine that deals with the nervous system and its disorders.

O

Occupational Therapy - planned activity for persons with disabilities to help them gain greater independence in living and work environments and prevent further disabilities.

Ombudsman – a person who investigates and mediates a client's problems and complaints in relation to an agency's services.

Outpatient – a patient, not hospitalized, who is treated in an office, clinic, or other health care facility.

P

Partial Hospitalization – a program designed to stabilize and reduce acute psychiatric symptoms. The goal is to prevent inpatient hospitalization or to shorten the stay of a person already hospitalized.

Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) Agency - The purpose of this program is to make necessary determinations regarding eligibility for services, to educate individuals and families in order to offer a choice of service arrangements, and to provide follow-up in a timely manner. The Pre-Admission Screening process collaborates with the consumer and his/her family and includes gathering relevant information to document the diagnosis of an intellectual disability, conduct assessments and evaluations, as well as the status of state and federal entitlements, and guardianship status. (In DuPage County the PAS agency is DayOne Pact, Inc.)

Pass Plan: Plan for Achieving Self Support – a work incentive for individuals who receive SSI that allows the individuals to set aside income for achieving a specific life goal in a specified period of time. This set aside income is not included when determining overall assets. As a result, the consumer is not punished with reduced benefits for working.

Personal Adjustment Training – a DVR sponsored training period to determine an individual's readiness to work.

Pediatric – concerning the branch of medicine that deals with the care of infants and children and treatment of their diseases.

Peer Counseling – a type of guidance in which persons of the same age, disability, or other similar interest are trained to help or guide others.

Perceptual Or Communicative Disability – a disorder in one or more of the *psychological* processes involved in understanding or in using language, which prevents the student from receiving reasonable educational benefit.

Physical Disability – a *sustained illness or disabling physical condition* which prevents the student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.

PL 94-192: Public Law 94-142 – federal law signed in 1974 that mandates that students with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public education, instruction in the least restrictive environment with equal access and due process. Reauthorized as IDEA.

Pre-Vocational – the term referring to activities designed to prepare an individual for job skills and job related behaviors.

Primary Caregiver – the person who spends the most time in caring for someone who is unable to live independently.

Prognosis – prediction of the course of the disease or disability.

Psychological Evaluation – an assessment of performance and capabilities which uses psychological tests to guide the establishment of appropriate interventions.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR)- This service is provided in your mental health center building. You can think of PSR as a classroom for building skills to help you live, work, learn, and participate fully in your community.

PUNS (Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services) - A statewide database that records information about individuals with developmental disabilities who are potentially in need of services. The State uses the data to select individuals for services as funding becomes available,

to develop proposals and materials for budgeting, and to plan for future needs

R

Recipient – consumer of services.

Recreational Therapy – a structured plan to develop a healthy body and mind through fun and relaxation.

Referral – sending a client to another source or provider to get advice or treatment.

Rehabilitation – the process of regaining lost functions or skills.

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – the federal act that makes provisions for training, equipment, and other services that people with disabilities may need in order to work and live independently in their communities.

Residential Care/Treatment – programs providing therapeutic living environments in community-based facilities such as community residences.

Respite – time away from the responsibilities of caring for someone who cannot care for him/herself.

S

School to Work Opportunities Act – the federal act that provides funding for systemic change that includes work-based, school-based and connecting activities to create quality opportunities for all students.

Screen – to test for signs of a disorder that might require further investigation

Section 504 – the anti-discrimination sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that affects all programs receiving federal funding.

Self-Determination - a process in which the individual's preferences, interests, abilities and wishes are the focus of planning and implementing activities.

Self Direction Assistance (SDA) - SDA (previously known as Service Facilitation) assists the participant (or the participant's family or representative, as appropriate) in arranging for, directing and managing services. Practical skills training is offered to enable families and participants to independently direct and manage waiver services. Examples of skills training include providing information on recruiting and hiring personal support workers, managing workers, and providing information on effective communication and problem-solving. The service/function includes providing information to ensure that participants understand the responsibilities involved with directing their services. The extent of the assistance furnished to the participant or family is specified in the personal plan.

Self-Help – assisting oneself. Refers also to groups who meet to help one another.

Service Coordinator – an advocate chosen by the consumer to assist in assessing health and social service systems and to assure that all required services are obtained.

Sheltered Workshop – a place where individuals with disabilities work for pay (usually below minimum wage), while they learn additional skills.

Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability (SIED) – emotional or social functioning, which prevents the student from receiving reasonable benefit from general education

Sliding Scale Fee – amount of money charged for professional services based on a client's ability to pay.

Speech/Language Disability – a communication disorder which prevents the student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.

Supplemental Needs Trust (SNT) – an irrevocable trust that takes effect during a parent’s lifetime, generally used to supplement the government benefits.

Social Security – federal government income plan payable to retired workers, survivors, and individuals with disabilities, who qualify.

Special Education – specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of the student with a disability, including instruction conducted in the classroom, homes, hospitals, institutions and other settings.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – basic monthly financial assistance for people with disabilities who are not gainfully employed and for the elderly.

Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) – provides benefits to workers or certain members of a worker’s family who may qualify, based on an impairment severe enough to prevent working for a year or more, or which is expected to result in death. The definition requires total disability. Benefits will continue as long as the person is medically disabled and not engaged in substantial gainful employment.

Support Groups – groups of people with similar needs and concerns who meet together to support each other and share information.

Supported Apartment – an apartment where a person with a disability gets help in order to live as independently as possible.

Supported Employment – a program for persons with substantial disabilities designed to assist integration into competitive employment.

Supported Living Arrangement (SLA) – A group residence where an individual lives with minimum supervision from paid staff members. Residents are expected to self administer medications, to demonstrate basic social and daily living skills, to function independently in the community and work or attend a day program.

T

Therapeutic Recreation – see recreational therapy.

Therapy and Counseling- This service involves treatment by a licensed clinician. He/she may help you to make changes in your feelings, thoughts, or actions. You may meet with the therapist face to face as an individual or with your family depending on your needs.

Transition – the passing from one condition, activity or place to another. The movement from school to adult life and the world of work. The transition is complex and involves decisions about career, living arrangements, social and financial goals.

Transition Services – a coordinated set of activities for students as part of the IEP, designed to promote movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, related services, independent living, or community participation. Transition planning becomes a part of the IEP process for students at age 14.

Triennial Review – a complete review of the student’s special education eligibility status conducted every three years by the IEP team.

V

Vision Disability – a deficiency in visual acuity and/or visual field and/or visual performance where, even with the use of lenses or corrective devices, he/she is prevented from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.

Vocational (career) assessment – the systematic collection of information about the student’s vocational aptitudes, abilities, expressed interests, and occupational awareness used in planning a transition to competitive employment or postsecondary education.

W

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) – a test of mental ability for those over age 16.

Work Adjustment Training (WAT) – a DVR sponsored training period to determine an individual’s readiness to work.

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (4th Edition) WISC IV - a test of mental ability for children 6 to 16 year of age.

Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) – A test of mental ability for children under six years of age.

Workforce (WIA) – A federal program administered by local government body which provides funding for vocational skills development and job placement.