

# NEXT STEP EVENT

PRESENTED BY: LA CROSSE COUNTY COMMUNITY ON TRANSITION

**MONDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 2026**  
**LUNDA CENTER - WTC CAMPUS**  
**4:00 - 7:00 PM**

Join us for an informative event designed to support families as individuals with disabilities transition to adulthood. Learn about planning, services, and resources to help your young adult prepare for the next stage of life.



[Link to Register](#)

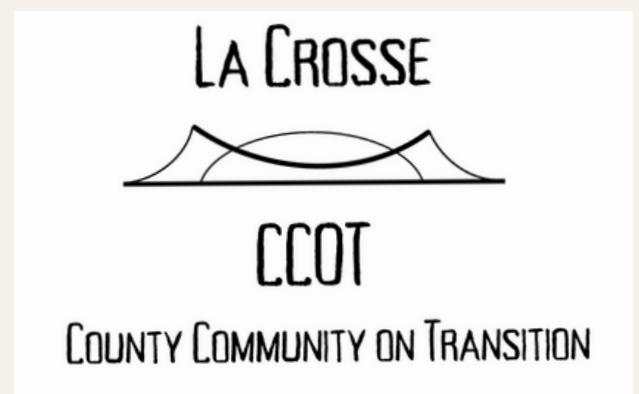
**COST: \$5.00 PER FAMILY**  
INCLUDES YOUR DINNER AND  
CONFERENCE FOR PARENTS  
AND TRANSITION STUDENTS.

## AGENDA

- 4:00 – 5:00 – Box Lunch Dinner, Vendor Fair
- 5:00 – 5:10 – Event Welcoming
- 5:15 – 6:45 – Informational Breakout Sessions
- 6:45 – 7:00 – Final Thoughts

SUPERVISED CHILD CARE WILL BE  
AVAILABLE DURING THE EVENT AND  
FACILITATED BY HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS.

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED SUPPORT,  
REACH OUT TO YOUR SCHOOL CONTACT**



### **Disability Services Panel (UWL, Western, Viterbo)**

A panel discussion with disability services specialists from area universities and technical colleges will provide an overview of how to prepare for college. Students and parents will learn keys to success in post-secondary education, including how to plan ahead, communicate needs, utilize available resources, and develop proactive self-advocacy skills.

*Presenters: Bryan Morris, Jenna Umberger, Alyssa Gostonczick*

### **Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**

This session provides an overview of the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), its mission, and how it supports students with disabilities in transitioning from high school to post-secondary training or competitive community employment.

*Presenter: Patrick, Tricia, Keila, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation*

### **Rethinking Guardianship**

Is guardianship really necessary? Before seeking guardianship, what other options have you explored? Join us to learn about supported decision-making, an alternative to guardianship. Discover how individuals can maintain independence through a collaborative decision-making process.

*Presenter: Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of La Crosse*

### **Social Security 101**

This presentation will review benefits available to students and families who have a disability. Topics include SSI, what happens when your child turns 18, and how working may affect SSI benefits.

*Presenter: Ricardo Acevedo, Social Security, Mary or Patty, with Disability Specialist*

### **Healthy Relationships: What They Are and How to Have Them**

As students transition out of high school, it can be challenging to build and maintain healthy relationships. This presentation will help students and caregivers understand what healthy relationships look like in different settings. Topics include setting boundaries, creating a safety plan, recognizing warning signs of unhealthy relationships, identifying potential risks, and learning about available support resources.

*Presenter: Jen Scaccio CSW Youth and Family Advocate/Lead Outreach Advocate Family and Children's Center, Inc.*

## **Transportation 101**

Does figuring out which mode of transportation is best for you or your child feel overwhelming? Join us for a session where representatives from three local transportation providers will explain how to use their services and discuss payment options.

*Presenters: Tim Kotowski – LaCrosse MTU, Paul Woodward –Shared Ride, Abbey Vans, Josh Massey –Carepool, Kelly ADRC*

## **Special Needs Financial Planning: What every parent needs to know**

Many families with children living with a disability don't know how their legal and financial future can affect their child's lifetime of care. Let's discuss the basics of starting a lifetime care plan that can work for both generations The disability transition, your child becomes an adult.

*Presenter: Joel P. Dettwiler, ChSNC® QUANTUM Group | Special Care Planner*

## **Able Accounts**

This session provides an overview of ABLE Accounts, including who is eligible, how the accounts work, and how they can be used to support individuals with disabilities. Participants will learn about contribution limits, allowable expenses, and how ABLE Accounts can help individuals save money without jeopardizing certain public benefits.

*Presenter: Joel P. Dettwiler, ChSNC® QUANTUM Group | Special Care Planner*

## **Processing the Process of Financial Aid**

Attend this interactive session presented by a financial aid counselor to learn more about the FAFSA, financial aid, and other financial topics specific to higher education. Questions are highly encouraged as we understand how overwhelming and confusing this process may be.

*Presenter: TBD*

## **Housing Options 101**

Before renting, know your budget and what you can afford, check your credit and fix any areas needed, look for rental properties that meet your needs, and know your rights/responsibilities.

*Presenter: Keith and Kristy Braunreite, Person 1st, Housing Authority, Pathways, ILR (Lora Kirschner, Certified Credit and Housing Counselor, Consumer Credit Counseling Service)*