

QUESTIONS TO ASK REGARDING TRANSITION

ADVOCACY

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. What has been your experience regarding advocating for individuals with disabilities?
2. Does your service have any fees?
3. How is assistance provided (face-to-face, consultative, etc...)?

DISABILITY SUPPORT

Questions to think about or ask provider:

1. How do I define my disability?
2. What are some helpful strategies for dealing with my disability?
3. Who can I talk to for support?
4. How can I support myself long-term dealing with my disability?

BENEFITS PLANNING

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. What proof of my disabled condition is required?
2. What proof of my financial situation is required?
3. What happens to the financial/medical benefits if I get a job?
4. How often is my eligibility for benefits reviewed?
5. How are benefits affected if I live at home with my parents?
6. What do I need to do to keep getting financial benefits?
7. What records need to be turned in regularly?
8. What changes in my situation need to be reported and when?

EDUCATION AND TRAINING RESOURCES

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. What kind of education do I want or need to reach my career goals?
2. What skills do I need prior?
3. What are the entrance requirements?
4. What supports are available and how do I access them?
5. What are the costs of your program? Are there resources available to help pay for this program?
6. What will I learn and what experiences will I have?
7. Will I earn a certificate, diploma, or degree?
8. Will people in this program help me find a job?
9. What kind of job will I be able to get when I am finished?
10. What are your strengths and weaknesses in relation to _____?
 - a. Reading
 - b. Math
 - c. Writing
 - d. Communication
 - e. Self-Advocacy
 - f. Study Skills

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. What kind of employment situation do you want?
2. What kind of support do you need?
3. What kinds of services are provided?
4. How are services paid for?
5. How long do services last?
6. Do you provide services other than employment?

7. How do I access these services?

HEALTH SERVICES

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. What percentage of the doctor's/staff's patients has a similar health conditions?
2. Is the office accessible?
3. What are the office hours?
4. Inquire about the doctor's education, specialty training, and board certification
5. How much time is usually spent with patients for routine office visits?
6. If the doctor's treatment plan doesn't help your condition, will they refer you to another physician for evaluation or treatment?
7. Does the doctor have a method to communicate with your specialists or other providers?
8. Will the doctor be able to see you rather than one of the office's other partners?
9. Does the doctor communicate effectively without using confusing terminology?

COMMUNITY LIVING SERVICES

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. Where do you want to live after graduation or in the future?
2. What independent living skills do you have?
3. What independent living skills do you need assistance with?
4. How much support do you need?
5. What is the staff per resident ratio per shift?
6. What services other than room and board do you provide?
7. What community-based or in-house resources for leisure activities are there?
8. What is the visitor policy?
9. What assurances are there to guarantee an individual's rights?
10. What type of transportation is near where you live in order for you to get around the community independently?

LEGAL SERVICES

Questions to think about or ask service providers:

1. What will happen to your child after you and/or your spouse dies?
2. Does your child have any or stand the chance of inheriting any money that could affect their benefits?
3. What is the service provider's experience regarding working with individuals with disabilities?
4. Does my child need a guardian? Are there alternatives to guardianship that may be more appropriate?

Adapted from: Valley View Public Schools Transition Manual,

http://www.edline.net/pages/Valley_View_School_District/Departments/Student_Services/Special_Education_Student_Se/S_T_E_P_/Valuable_RESOURCES