Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN):

What Schools Need to Know About Us and Transition

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By the end of this presentation, you will be able to answer these questions:

- Why do my students need to be connected to DDSN?
- What services are available through DDSN?
- How can I be sure my students are linked with DDSN?
- How to apply for DDSN services?
- How are DDSN services funded?
- How can I help my students and families prepare for adult services they may need?
Why do my students need DDSN?

LEAVING SCHOOL IS A BIG TRANSITION!
Key Differences Between School and Adult World

Funding for Adult Services is different than for School Services

Adult Services require application and determination of eligibility
KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SCHOOL AND THE ADULT WORLD

Students age out of school

Schools serve students of specific ages. Agencies, like DDSN, serve people, regardless of age, for many years.

DDSN Services continue for many years and stages of life
How can I help my students prepare for the future?

Understand:

1. What kind of further education and training does the student need or want?

2. What kind of job/career does the student want?

3. Where does the student want to live and how does he/she want to spend his/her free time?

Does the student need assistance to attain what is needed or desired?
Students that received assistance from 3-6 community-based agencies (as compared to students with assistance from 0-2 agencies) were more likely to be engaged in post-school employment or education. (NSTTAC, 2011)
STATE AGENCIES

- South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department
- SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
- SC Department of Employment and Workforce Development

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- DDSN Local Providers
- Centers for Independent Living- ABLE South Carolina
- LIFE College Programs or local community or other colleges
- Family Connection
- SC Assistive Technology Center
- Local Public transportation
WHO DOES DDSN SERVE?

- DDSN serves South Carolinians, of any age, who request services and are determined to have a severe, lifelong disability of:
  - intellectual disability,
  - Autism Spectrum Disorder,
  - Head injury
  - Spinal cord injury
  - and conditions similar/related to each of these four disabilities.
What is DDSN's Mission?

- DDSN's mission is to assist people with disabilities and their families in meeting needs, pursuing possibilities and achieving life goals, and to minimize the occurrence and reduce the severity of disabilities through prevention.
When needed, the following types of services are available through DDSN:

- Individual/Family Support Services
- Adult Day Services (Day Activity, Community Services, Group employment)
- Employment Services
- Residential Services
HOW CAN I KNOW IF MY STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE?

- Have Release of Information forms completed and signed for your student.
- Scan the completed form to a Post-Secondary Transition Coordinator.
- The Coordinator can then share information about a student’s status with DDSN, including:
  - If eligible or not
  - Assistance to connect with DDSN if not yet eligible
  - If a case manager is assigned or not and if so his/her name and agency
  - Services/programs in which the student is enrolled or awaiting.

- If you are unsure if a student is eligible, you can contact DDSN:
  Sheri Matthews by
  Phone: (803) 898-2235 or
  E-mail: smatthews@ddsn.sc.gov
HOW DO YOU APPLY TO DDSN?

**DDSN Eligibility begins with a phone.**

The number to call is: 1-800-289-7012

Calls are answered from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.
When Parents or Students call:

- Have your student’s basic information available including:
  - Full name
  - Date of Birth
  - Address
  - Social Security Number,
  - Medicaid ID Number (if eligible)
  - E-mail address

- Plan to spend about 15 minutes on the phone.

- Students/Parents will be asked questions about your residency in South Carolina.

- Students/parents will be asked general questions about the student’s disability.

- Unless you are seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, student/parent will be asked to choose three Intake Providers from a list read to you. The Intake Provider will assist you through the eligibility process.

- If is seeking seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, a DDSN Autism Eligibility Coordinator will be available to assist them.
Where do I start?

After the call:

- Within about 1 week, expect a letter from DDSN with information about services. Forms should be completed, signed and returned.
- Within about 2 weeks, unless student/family is seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, they should expect a call from their Intake Provider.
- If the student/family are seeking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) eligibility, within about 2 weeks, they can expect a call from an Autism Eligibility Coordinator.
- If they do not receive the letter from DDSN or do not receive a phone call from either an Intake Service Provider or Autism Eligibility Coordinator, please call DDSN at 1-800-289-7012.
Please go to the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs website for more information

www.ddsn.sc.gov

Select the Services tab and select Applying for Services
How can I as a teacher help?

- Provide copies of records and/or help fill out packet
- Encourage families to respond to requests

Contact your DDSN Transition Specialist for updates!
CASE MANAGERS ARE THE LOCAL CONTACT

Once eligible, the person / family may select a case management provider.
Every County has a local Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

Local boards are providers of some DDSN-sponsored services.

Each county has private service providers.

Parents/Students can choose services providers for the services that are deemed appropriate in the student’s plan.

Find More Service Providers: https://app.ddsnc.gov/public/directory/landing.do
Check the DDSN website for the most current list of service providers for your area

ddsn.sc.gov
WHEN NEEDED, CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES MAY BE PROVIDED. The case manager will:

- Assess the student’s needs,
- Develop a plan to address those needs
- Implement the plan which may include linking to needed services such as
  - SC Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Home and Community Based Waiver services and programs
  - Medicaid services
  - Other DDSN funded services
How can I as a teacher help?

Stay in touch with student’s case manager

Call with concerns and invite to IEP meetings

Use the Case Manager Communication form
FUNDING OF SERVICES

*State funds
*Medicaid
*Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver
WHAT ARE MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVERS?

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers are Medicaid–funded programs that offer services in addition to those available through "regular" Medicaid for special populations of people.

There are currently seven (7) different approved HCBS Waivers in South Carolina.

DDSN operates three (3) HCBS Waivers.
WHAT ARE MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVERS?

The three (3) DDSN operated HCBS Waivers are designed to serve South Carolinians with:

- intellectual disability,
- Autism Spectrum Disorder,
- Head injury
- Spinal cord injury
- and conditions similar/related to each of these four disabilities.
COMMUNITY SUPPORTS WAIVER

- **SEE HANDOUT ON WEBSITE**
  

- Case Manager can assist a student/family to determine if this is something they may be eligible for and place name on waiting list.

- **Has an annual cap** on the amount of services that can be purchased.

- All services are based on the person’s assessed needs.
ID/RD WAIVER


- Case Manager can assist a student/family to determine if this is something they may be eligible for and place name on waiting list.

- No annual cap on the amount of services that can be purchased.

- All services are based on the person’s assessed needs.
HASCI WAIVER


- Serves people who have suffered a traumatic brain or spinal cord injury or have a similar condition.

- Currently, there is no waiting list for this waiver.

- All services are based on the person’s assessed needs.
DDSN PROVIDES LIFE LONG SERVICES WHICH PLACES A DEMAND ON THE SYSTEM

FAMILIES MUST APPLY TO BE ON A WAIVER WAITING LIST

DDSN HAS LIMITED SPACE AND RESOURCES WHICH ALSO MAY PROVIDE A WAIT FOR SERVICES

APPLY NOW
HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENT?

EDUCATE FAMILIES ABOUT THE AGENCY AND HOW TO CONNECT

Ensure the STUDENT IS connected and receiving or awaiting needed services and programs

Your DDSN Transition Specialist can help you!

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Individual integrated employment at or above minimum wage is the preferred outcome for working age adults, regardless of disability.

This is the foundation for assessment and planning for individuals receiving services through DDSN.

We encourage all people who want to work (in any fashion) to apply to the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department which is the state agency whose mission is to assist people with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.
HOW CAN I HELP MY STUDENT?

SCVRD IS THE STATE AGENCY FOR WORK

REFER students TO SCVRD

WORK WITH the student's SCVRD COUNSELOR

ALL STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES!
STATE FUNDED FOLLOW ALONG

(DDSN funded program)

- Specifically designed to provide on-going support for those students who have achieved stability on the job are considered successfully employed.

- Program enrollment can occur upon graduation and South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation has closed the student's case.
PREPAING STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
DDSN wants to provide services in the most integrated, home and community based setting.

Services moving from disability segregated settings to community inclusive!
Young adults will have their services individualized and integrated into their community therefore they will be expected to:

- Direct how they spend their day.
- Have the social skills to interact with their community, not just paid staff/others with similar disabilities.
- Engage in employment opportunities within the community, paid at least minimum wage, alongside peers without disabilities, and have better employment choices/fits.
CONTACT YOUR TRANSITION COORDINATOR!

THANK YOU!

GET THIS MAP ON THE DDSN TRANSITION SERVICES WEBPAGE!
QUESTIONS?
Lelder@ddsn.sc.gov
Rmumford@ddsn.sc.gov