

Acknowledgements

At the request of the North Carolina General Assembly in 2008, the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM) convened the Task Force on Transitions for People with Developmental Disabilities to study transitions for persons with developmental disabilities from one life setting to another. The Task Force was asked to examine barriers to transition and best practices in successful transitions.^a Specifically, the North Carolina General Assembly instructed the Task Force to examine at least three topics: the transition for adolescents leaving high school, including adolescents in foster care; the transition for persons with developmental disabilities who live with aging parents; and the transition from developmental centers to other settings. The NCIOM was directed to report the Task Force findings and recommendations to the North Carolina General Assembly by March 2009. The Task Force met a total of six times between October 2008 and March 2009 to develop the final report and recommendations.

The NCIOM would like to extend appreciation to all of the Task Force members and Steering Committee members whose combined efforts made this report possible. The Task Force was led by three co-chairs, James Bodfish, PhD, Director, Center for Development and Learning, Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Adonis T. Brown, Independent Living Consultant and Disability Peer Advocate, EnVisioned Independent Living; and Leza Wainwright, Director, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. There were 32 additional Task Force members who dedicated their time to research this issue. Members of the Task Force and eight additional individuals participated on the Task Force's Steering Committee, helping to shape meeting agendas and providing important input on the report and recommendations. A complete list of Task Force members and Steering Committee members can be found on pages 9-11 of this report.

The NCIOM would also like to thank the speakers who contributed their time, expertise, and experiences to the Task Force: Julia Bick, JD, Housing Coordinator, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS); Rose Burnette, Waiver Manager, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMHDDSAS), NC DHHS; Christina Carter, Implementation Manager, Community Policy Management Section, DMHDDSAS, NC DHHS; Carol Donin, Team Leader, Developmental Centers, DMHDDSAS, NC DHHS; Cindy Ehlers, MS, LPC, CBIS, Assistant Area Director of Clinical Operations, East Carolina Behavioral Health Local Management Entity; Thea Gardner, Parent Representative; Angela Harper, Housing Specialist, DMHDDSAS, NC DHHS; Connie Hawkins, Executive Director, Exceptional Children's Assistance



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Center; Mary LaCorte, Assistant Director, Exceptional Children's Assistance Center; Freda M. Lee, MAEd, Consultant for Intellectual Disabilities, Secondary Education, and Transition Services, Exceptional Children Division, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; Betsy MacMichael, State Director, First in Families of North Carolina; Joan McAllister, MSW, LINKS State Coordinator, Division of Social Services, NC DHHS; Alexander Myers, PhD, Murdoch Developmental Center; Susan L. Parish, PhD, MSW, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Gina Price, MS, CRC, LCAS, CSI, Program Specialist, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, NC DHHS; Genny Pugh, Executive Director, Turning Point Services; Michael Sanderson, MPH, Best Practices Unit Manager, Children and Youth Branch, Division of Public Health, NC DHHS; Sillar Smith, State Director, Compensatory Education and Special Populations, North Carolina Community College System; David Test, PhD, Project Co-Principal Investigator, Knowledge Generation, National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center, Department of Special Education and Child Development, University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Nancy Thaler, Executive Director, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services; Shealy Thompson, PhD, Community Policy Management, DMHDDSAS, NC DHHS; and Patte Whitfield, MS, OTR/L, Assistant Director, The Arc of North Carolina.

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