CTC Minutes – March 13, 2018

Paul started out the meeting by reviewing the agenda. We had approximately 30 in attendance.

**Agency Showcase**

Cynthia Alferink and Sen Toda (MRS) gave an update on Project SEARCH. PS is a nationally acclaimed partnership model. Their number one goal is employment and they have high success with long-term placement. National rates are about 75% - our PS has higher rates. They have changed a few things this year to make things better – starting with moving application dates up. They are doing interviews at the work site this year. Acceptance letters will go out over Spring Break and then IEPs to follow. Spectrum Health is a more engaged and interactive work site, compared to Fifth Third, which is a more controlled office work. Most students are certificate bound but they will work with diploma bound students. PS should be the students last year of school. MRS continues to work with the student for 90 days after employment. Hope Network contacts the student every month for a year. Roadblocks can be teacher buy-in, transportation and motivation on student’s part.

Karen AWE (MRS) and Trina Edmondson (Disability Advocates of Kent County) – MRS is now delivering Public VR to students at an earlier age. MRS has four counselors to cover our four regions in Kent County. They work with Goodwill (12th graders), Ability Employment Services (10th graders) and DAKC (11th graders) to help deliver some of the services for 10th, 11th and 12th graders. DAKC is part of a national organization. In Michigan, their Centers for Community Living serve all 83 counties and help students with employability and independent living.

**Agency Reports and Updates**

- **Nate, DSAWM** – They have a free dance at Masonic on March 21st to celebrate National Down Syndrome day.
- **Patt Clement, The ARC Kent County** – This month they have the Social Security training on either March 21 or 28. Golf outing is in July – call Patt for more info.
- **Anne Sherman, GRCC** – They have switched to Pathways for undetermined career paths. It gives students an opportunity to navigate classes that will help determine their career path. They are changing their culinary program to reduce lab hours and make it more affordable for students. Their Nursing program is working on accreditation. Call 234-3300 to set up a tour at GRCC.

**Transition Expo**

We had 300-400 people – 150 students signed in. Paul has talked to Duane Kiley about getting more space next year. Paul shared a graph that showed what schools the students came from.

**Transition System**

Table groups were asked to develop a plan on items from the list of actionable items for Student Development or Family Involvement.
Family Engagement – focused in on creating a webpage for student, parent and teacher access. Visual and sound for better accessibility. A forum for answering questions. Links to social media. Suggestions for future expos to have coaching rooms to help parents and students know where to start.

Student Development –

- Life Unplugged at KCTC offered once or twice a month during first or third session including a tour of KCTC.
- Life Unplugged along with goals training – “Life in Motion” - possibly at GRCC – for 9th and 10th grade students
- Expo on a smaller basis – with more dialogue. Held outside the school day. One in spring and one in fall. Five areas of training to match the five transition areas

Paul will take these ideas and bring back some feedback and next steps to the May meeting.