

# Preliminary Findings of a Peer Navigator Health Care Transition Planning Employment Pathway Program

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**Background:** The focus of the Peer Navigator program is to implement and test a peer navigator employment pathway program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to facilitate the transfer of care to adult health care and assist with service referrals and supports for transition and adult services for employment, education, training, and community living for youth and young adults with IDD. ) in collaboration with East Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC), a community based IDD agency, developed, implemented, and is currently testing the Innovative Peer Navigator Employment Pathway Program as a Paid Internship Program (PIP) employment training pathway at ELARC and other regional centers.

## PNETP Modules composed of Didactic and Interactive components:

- Videos from CHLA UCEDD's Transition Summits
- Role playing
- Case conferencing
- 1 to 1 coaching
- Job shadowing with other HCT service coordinators/case managers
- Discussion, individual reflection
- Interactive presentations with Project Coordinator

**Methods:** To date, two Peer Navigators have been trained in case management and transition services and systems and provided services to 19 youth and young adults with IDD with transfer of care to adult-focused providers and transition referral services to transition and adult-focused community-based services that include postsecondary education, training, employment and community living. By October 9, we will have trained 2 to 3 more peer navigators who will each provide services to at least 10 youth and young adults with IDD

## Results:

- 1 Peer Navigator has obtained part time competitive integrated employment in social services
- 1 Peer Navigator is planning to return to school
- Peer Navigators have assisted connecting 19 YYA to:
  - Adult-focused HCP
  - Health insurance plans
  - Postsecondary education
  - ACCESS (disability transit)
  - Department of Rehabilitation
  - Independent Living Centers
  - Self-Advocacy groups/clubs

## PNETP curriculum is composed of modules:

- Transfer of care from pediatric to adult-focused health care
- Post secondary education and training
- Employment resources for job training and placement
- Community-based resources for independent living and community integration

**Conclusion:** The program has resulted in competitive integrated employment and steps towards competitive integrated employment for both Peer Navigator interns. Patients and their families are being connected to resources they did not know about previously and are working toward transitioning their health and social services to adult care.

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