

Connecting the Dots when Serving Youth and Young Adults

October 9, 2024

Thank you for joining today's webinar!
We will begin at 1 p.m. ET
You will not hear audio or see captions until we begin.



TICKET | **EN**Essentials
to **Work**

Connecting the Dots when Serving Youth and Young Adults

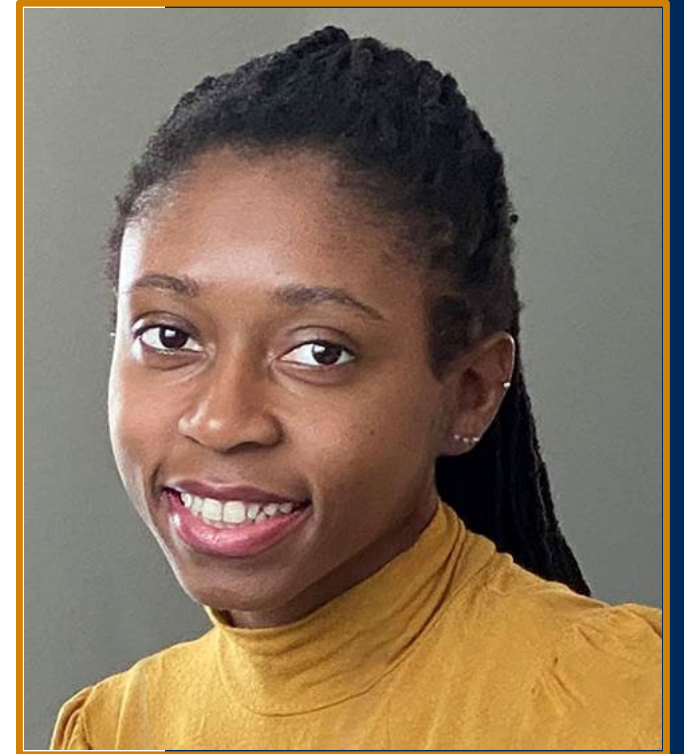
October 9, 2024

Overview

Connecting the Dots for Adrienne

Using our recent Ticketholder Success Story, we'll showcase:

- Adrienne's path to long-term competitive employment
- Connections among all the organizations that supported and continue to support Adrienne
- Building community relationships and funding sources to serve youth and young adults like Adrienne



AGENDA

Connecting the Dots when Serving Youth and Young Adults

Logistics and Introductions

Adrienne's Story

Key Supports and Relationships

Panel: Working Together for Success

Q&A

Logistics

- TPM is recording and capturing the transcript from today's meeting and will make it available on the Your Ticket to Work website at [EN Essentials Learning Events](#).
- Please feel free to ask a question in the MS Teams chat section.
- You may send additional questions or comments to: ENOperations@yourtickettowork.ssa.gov.
- Closed Captioning is available for participants who join using the MS Teams Application or by using the closed captions link provided in the GovDelivery email announcement for today's call.
 - To turn on Closed Captions in MS Teams, go to the three ellipses at the top of the MS Teams window; click on "More"; scroll down the list to "Language and Speech" then click on "Turn on live captions."
 - When using the link option, paste the link in the browser and it will open a separate window to view closed captions.
- Per the Ticket Program Agreement (Part III, Section 11 subsection I), EN staff are not permitted to record this meeting nor capture the transcript.

Introductions

MODERATOR and PRESENTER

Derek Shields

Senior EN Development and Training Manager

Ticket to Work Program Manager



Panelists

Paul Barth

Project SEARCH Manager
Community Integrated Services

Shari Brightful

District Administrator
Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Angelina Bush

Assistant Director of Ticket and Benefits
Community Integrated Services

Jane Cordero

Special Education Coordinator
Philadelphia School District



Adrienne's Story



High School

- Adrienne, a young woman with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), was ready to graduate from high school.
 - In the K-12 school system, students with disabilities have access to therapeutic interventions, special education and other supports.
 - The support programs end after age 21.
- Her parents were uncertain how to help Adrienne lead a full life after graduation and sought advice from the guidance counselor.



Transition Guidance

- Adrienne's guidance counselor discussed programs that could provide individualized support for workforce readiness and success.
 - She connected Adrienne with **Pennsylvania's State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency** to learn more about working and services available to her.
 - Adrienne wanted a job
 - Her parents had concerns about risking her SSI and Medicaid benefits
- Adrienne's VR counselor connected her to **Community Integrated Services (CIS)** for benefits counseling and help navigating the path to employment.

Connecting to Employment

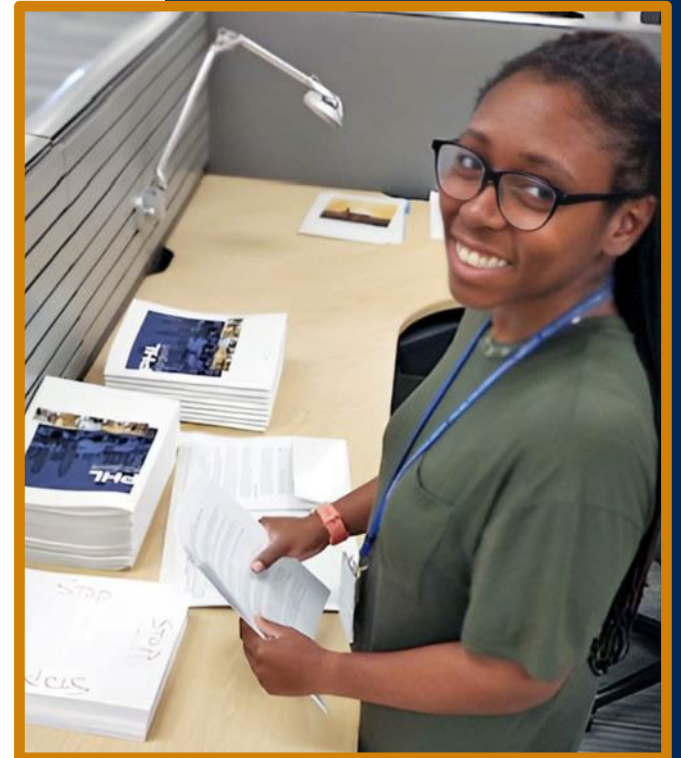
As a result of connecting with the team at CIS:

- Adrienne learned that if employed, her Medicaid could continue, even if her earnings became too substantial for her to receive a monthly SSI payment.
- Adrienne worked with CIS staff to explore jobs and ways to gain skills through work experience.
- CIS staff connected Adrienne with staff at her high school about a school-to-work transition program called **Project SEARCH**.
 - Project SEARCH offers technical training and experiential learning at host business internships.

On the Job

After connecting with Project SEARCH, Adrienne:

- Received technical training, gained work experience and learned soft skills every day as an intern at the Philadelphia International Airport.
- Demonstrated a strong work ethic and knack for order.
 - Maintained the copy room, office supplies and files, and helped co-workers wherever needed.
- Accepted a full-time position as a departmental aide in the Airport's Human Resources Office.
- Enjoys the benefits of being a city employee and proudly **traded her SSI for a paycheck.**



Key Supports and Relationships



Supports and Relationships

To achieve good outcomes, students with disabilities need access to integrated services that begin before transition and continue after they find a job.

- Family support
- School transition services
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Benefits counseling
- Community support services



Family

Parents, guardians and families play a big role in helping a child prepare for adulthood. High expectations can support future goals by helping a child link to resources like:

- Benefits counseling
- Career planning
- Employment counseling
- Money management training
- Mentoring
- Self-advocacy learning opportunities



School

Students with disabilities need access to integrated services that begin in school, before transition.

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - Should include goals and a transition plan for after high school
 - Further education and training
 - Where to live, employment and leisure activities.
- Team:
 - Special education teacher
 - Guidance counselor
 - Therapists
 - Supporting agencies



Benefits Counseling

Benefits Counselors help youth and families understand how work will impact their benefits:

- Review financial and health insurance options
- Navigate systems and reporting requirements
- Describe and help access Work Incentives

Must start early – well before age 18

Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)

- Prioritize youth – beginning at age 14



Benefits

SSA's [Youth Website](#) informs youth ages 14 – 17, their guardians, teachers, etc., about national services, programs and resources:

- How to appeal or continue receiving payments if eligibility stops due to age-18 redetermination
- How earnings affect age-18 redetermination
- Changes to income considerations after turning 18
- Work Incentives available to youth
- SSI program rules about higher education funds
- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts



Vocational Rehabilitation

Early involvement (as early as age 14)

- Collaborates with IEP team, educators, employers and partner agencies to support:
 - **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)**
 - Self-advocacy skills
 - Workplace readiness and job exploration
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Vocational or post-secondary training and education
 - Job search and placement
 - **Post-Employment services**
 - Supported and customized employment
 - Partnership Plus collaboration



Community Services

Common community service providers for Transition-Aged Youth:

- Centers for Independent Living
- Employment service providers
 - Community rehabilitation programs
 - Supported employment agencies
- Workforce agencies/Career centers
- Mental health service providers
- College and university disability services



Photo: Disability:IN

Panel: Working Together



Community Integrated Services (CIS)

CIS works to build a more inclusive, diverse and equitable workforce through partnerships with public agencies, businesses, schools, universities and community organizations.

- Ticket to Work
- Benefits counseling
- Customized employment
- Supported employment
- School to Work transition



Photo: Disability:IN

Q&A



Questions

- Please feel free to ask a question in the MS Teams chat section.
- If joining via phone and you wish to ask a question:
 - Press *5 to raise your hand and we will unmute your phone.
 - Press *6 to speak.
- If joining via MS Teams and you wish to ask a question aloud:
 - Raise your hand and we will unmute your mic.
- Please limit questions to one per participant.

You may send additional questions or comments to: ENOperations@yourtickettowork.ssa.gov.



Thank You

Paul Barth

Community Integrated Services

Shari Brightful

Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Angelina Bush

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Jane Cordero

Philadelphia School District



Social Security Resources

- The Youth website is a one-stop hub dedicated to informing youths ages 14 – 17, their guardians, teachers, etc., about SSA’s youth support services and programs, as well as national and community support services and resources: ssa.gov/youth
- What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18: ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf
- Information and supports to help SSI youth become self-sufficient: ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-119.pdf
- What You Need to Know About Earning Money and Supplemental Security Income (SSI): ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-121.pdf



TICKET
to **Work**

TOOLS

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 23: WISE Webinar

Ticket to Work: Supporting Access to Good Jobs for All

November 5: All EN Payments Call

November 13: EN Essentials

[2024 Calendar of Events](#)

Send an email to the EN Development and Training Department at ENOperations@yourtickettowork.ssa.gov with feedback, recommendations or ideas for future EN Essentials events.