**Mini-Maps Activity**

Successful community transition teams have a vision of how the transition from school to adult-life should proceed in their communities. Such a vision reflects the ideals for which the team stands, provides the team inspiration and motivation, and supports group discussion and problem-solving.

Establishing a team’s shared vision can be tricky! Agencies and individuals joining a community transition team enter into the process with their own personal perspectives. These perspectives are often not similar, as each agency and individual may have a different perspective based on their organization’s mission and the services they provide.

One of the first responsibilities of a community transition team is to discuss, formulate, and establish their team’s vision statement. To support this endeavor, we recommend the use of the mini-maps activity. Read below to find out how to implement the mini-maps activity with your community transition team!

**Step #1**

Directions: Have each team member respond to the questions listed below. Each team members’ answer will reflect their visions, strengths, and contributions.

Community Transition Team Member: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your personal and professional history related to transition and interagency collaboration?

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1. What is your vision for the future of transition services and outcomes of youth with disabilities in your community?

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1. My vision for this team is:

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1. I can best serve this team with my strengths of:

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**Step #2:**

Directions: Next, reflect on your answers above. Summarize your answers on the graphic organizer below. Write down your strengths, your personal and professional history that may contribute to the group, your vision of the future of transition services in your area, and your vision of what you can give to the team.

**Personal & Professional History:**

**Strengths:**

**Vision of Transition Services:**

**Vision of Your Contributions to Community Transition Team:**

**Step #3**

Directions: In your teams, take 20 minutes to report on your Mini-Maps Graphic Organizer. Compile similarities and differences among the members. Identify someone in your group to record these similarities and differences, as well as a list of specific contributions and strengths of each team member.

Be sure to share your graphic organizer, related your personal history, strengths, and vision.

Next, you will use the information from the Mini-Maps activity and your graphic organizer person to work as a group to develop a shared vision for your community transition team.

**Step #4**

Directions: An effective community transition team requires an organized, operational structure that can develop goals that meet the shared vision and needs of the growing team and the community. Your community transition team is now aware of the team and the individual members’ strengths and visions, but how will you get there? ***Take 20 minutes to draw a picture of the group’s “vision” for the community related to transition outcomes.*** One person can draw, and everyone can contribute their thoughts OR everyone can draw on the paper! The vision needs to reflect the group’s ideas.

Adapted from: NCSET Essential Tools: Interagency Transition Team Development and Facilitation (January, 2005, pp.21-22)