

**Secondary Transition Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 8, 2023**  
**11:00 am**

**Members Present**

Daniela Santana Cairo, Best Buddies

Giselle Mendieta, ESE MDCPS

Janet Marrero, Transition Specialist MDCPS

Silvia Calderon, Special Olympics

Enrique Escallon, Parent

Brenda Lampon, Vocational Rehabilitation

Lisa Friedman-Chavez, Project 10

Meeting started at 11:10 am.

- Introductions were made and Ms. Giselle Mendieta welcomed everyone to the subcommittee meeting.
- Ms. Mendieta provided a brief explanation as to the reason for the meeting.
- Meeting is taking place in order to review the goals that were discussed previously and to determine if these goals would be the ones that the subcommittee will be focusing on this school year.
- Goals were reviewed and committee members had an opportunity to provide input on the effectiveness and focus of the goal.
  - Daniela Santana expressed that the situation with job placement is not related to not having jobs available for students, but not having students to place in jobs.
  - Ms. Santana suggested that our goals should focus on parent education and training on topics related to job training, career options, and increase knowledge on available programs.
  - Ms. Escallon expressed that we should create a pathway and also focus on training school staff along with parents.
- Subcommittee discussed what else we can do to support the MDCPS Transition team.
- Janet Marrero provided information and input on transition services and the need for parent training.

- Committee discussed that we have to target students earlier than high school as it pertains to transition. Transition services start at age 12.
- Committee discussed combining goals 1 and 3 and creating a parent education goal.
- Discussed how parents communicate with other parents and having organizations such as: Parent to Parent and the Parent Academy involved and/or informed will help to bring awareness and education to parents.
- The possibility of having parent workshops and planning a Transition Family Forum were discussed. Janet Marrero suggested inviting a WIPA (Work Incentive Planning and Assistance) counselor would be helpful.
- Mrs. Mendieta informed committee that she would work on revamping the goals based on the input and would send out the goals and future meeting dates to all members.

Meeting concluded at 12:00 pm.