**Blueprint for Effective Transition - Narrative**

Transition is a process, not a destination or event, and leads to quality outcomes for each individual. Transition is lifelong, with milestones along the way. It is both a foundation and a springboard to a fulfilling and meaningful life that must be facilitated by the individual, family, supports, and services across all environments. Transition involves collaboration, creativity, and community, and envisions a path through which an individual figures out what he or she wants to do and how to live his or her life.

All human beings have value, natural abilities, dignity, and potential. By dignity, we mean: Self-respect, nobility, worthiness, and honoring choice. Through this, we set the tone for all achievement and personal growth. Transition is the movement that incorporates these inherent characteristics, creating opportunities for a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Successful transition is a journey. This journey takes the individual through many transition planning areas and promotes development of the essential elements of a fulfilling life.

**Transition Planning Areas:**

The transition planning areas (see diagram) describe various transitions for the person throughout his or her lifetime. The blueprint presumes that the person begins as a child under parental care, transitions to adulthood, and thrives in a world with continued transitions. Family and community supports are present as part of a responsive natural support network. Success transition planning involves an individual, family, community, and government partnership. Supports for any individual should be closest to “typical” for anyone.

*Community inclusion* is based on the assumption that an individual with disabilities should not be isolated but instead should be a part of and connected within the community. It means a person is engaged socially, recreationally, and culturally. It also means that the person becomes a productive community member, pursuing talents and giving back to others. As the person differentiates from his or her parents he or she begins to exercise greater *self-determination*, makes more choices, and with the necessary support takes a more active role in setting and pursuing his or her own goals. As a member of the community a person is treated with dignity and respect. A person belongs.

Quality flexible *wraparound supports* are based on need, not what is available. These involve varying supports as needed (from minimal to maximum, and adapting to life’s circumstances) to promote appropriate development, safety, stability, and inclusion.

The rest of the transition planning areas are self-explanatory: *Stable housing and home, transportation, employment and vocation, health care, financial management and planning, continuing education*, and *planning for aging*; all allowing community inclusion and self-determination – central to the person’s life.

**Essential Elements of a Fulfilling Life:**

The interwoven essential elements of a fulfilling life include:

* Family and friends
* Relationships, intimacy, & love
* Community & belonging
* Natural supports
* Dignity of risk
* Dignity of choice
* Quality of Life
* Culture, values, & beliefs
* Lifelong personal growth & skill building

These elements are achievable by a successful journey through the transition planning areas.

Transition is about excellence and equity. It is about investing in human potential and individual dignity.

Central to the diagram, transition involves communication, collaboration, and integration. Integration requires transcending boundaries and braiding resources to create a comprehensive whole.