**Blueprint for Effective Transition - Narrative**

Transition is about excellence and equity. It is a process, not a destination or event. 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. Transition is the movement that incorporates these characteristics creating opportunities for a meaningful and fulfilling life.

By dignity, we mean: Self-respect, nobility, [elevation of character], worthiness, and honoring choice.

Starting there, we set the tone for all achievement.

Successful transition is a journey. This journey takes the individual through nine 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. Natural community support is present as part of a responsive support network. Success involves an individual, family, community, and government partnership, where support for any individual is not artificial but closest to “typical” for anyone.

Community inclusion and self-determination 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. A person is informed about choices and becomes a productive community member, pursuing talents and giving back to others. A person individuates from their parents, makes his or her own choices, and earns dignity and respect from typical interactions with others as part of a community. A person belongs.

Quality flexible wraparound supports involves varying support 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, and love; community and belonging; quality of life; natural supports; dignity of risk; dignity of choice; lifelong personal growth and skill building; and culture, values, and beliefs. These elements are achievable by a successful journey through the transition planning areas.

All of this is about investing in human potential and individual dignity.

Transition involves mutual support and collaboration. It requires transcending silos to create a comprehensive whole.