Transitioning Into Adolescent and Adult Services:
Challenges and Strategies

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TERMS AND JARGON

- ABA: Applied Behavior Analysis
- BCBA: Board Certified Behavior Analyst
- LABA: Licensed Applied Behavior Analyst (MA)
- PBS: Positive Behavior Support
- DDS: MA Department of Developmental Services
- 688: “Turning 22” transition program
TERMS AND JARGON

- **MRC**  MA Rehabilitation Commission
- **DMH**  MA Department of Mental Health
- **DESE**  MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **ARICA**  An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Autism
- **Autism Omnibus Legislation**
- **Person Centered Planning**
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

● When should I start asking questions?

● How does the school-based transition process work?

● Day Hab? CBDS? Voc? PETS? What do those mean?

● What types of residential models are there?

● Are the funding differences really that significant?

● How do the new DDS Eligibility regulations affect me?

● What am I responsible for?

● How do I “Shop for Services”? 
WHEN SHOULD I START ASKING QUESTIONS?

Yesterday! (Seriously, never too early!)
Today
Tomorrow
Ongoing

Many answers are out there (sort of…)
Unanswerable questions due to changing support model
HOW DOES THE SCHOOL-BASED TRANSITION PROCESS WORK?

IEP team should have a Transition Coordinator

DDS will become involved at 14

Begin to target life skills

Identify key players of transition team

Ensure compliance from district and DDS

Begin collaboration with DDS (688 coordinator)

Service coordinator - VIP!!!

Day Habilitation - Life Skills
Community Based Day Supports
Vocational
Pre-Employment Transition Services (New)

Many agencies offer some or all of these

What fits your child?
What does your child want?

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WHAT TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL MODELS ARE THERE?

Independent Living Supports
Adult Foster Care (AFC)
Shared Living
24/7 Residential
Family Supports
Individualized Home Supports

Need to determine the right fit
ARE THE FUNDING DIFFERENCES REALLY THAT SIGNIFICANT?

Funding IS much less for adult services

Masshealth does not cover ABA services after 18

Entitlement vs. non-entitlement

Fading supports during school is crucial (e.g., 1:1)

Teaching leisure and independent skills is important

Communication, coping, waiting, denied access
HOW DO THE NEW DDS ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS AFFECT ME?

Autism Omnibus Bill

Functional skills vs intelligence/performance

Different Agencies (DDS, DMH, MRC)

Services evolving - dynamic

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WHAT AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Responsibilities of:

- Parents
- Schools
- DDS
- Other Agencies

Collaboration is crucial
Everyone makes mistakes
HOW DO I “SHOP FOR SERVICES”?

Referral process
Every agency has its own admission process
Visit with multiple agencies
Ask specific questions about resources, models
Individualized services
Autism?
What am I responsible for?

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