

Illinois Department of Human Services  
Division of Rehabilitation Services

Snapshot of  
Youth & Transition  
Programs, Services, and Supports

- Program/Service Descriptions
- Illinois Transition Contacts for High School Programs
- Listing of University Counselors

The Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is the state's lead agency serving individuals with disabilities. DRS works in partnership with people with disabilities and their families to assist them in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities.

DRS is committed to provide services that ensure youth with disabilities have the knowledge, skills, and experience they need to successfully transition into the world of work. The agency helps high school students who have disabilities plan for their futures after high school graduation through our **Transition** and **STEP** (Secondary Transition Experience Program) programs. There are counselors located in 51 local offices and transition specialists who work with individual schools and school districts to identify eligible students for the Transition and STEP programs. Prior to graduation from high school, referrals are made to adult service providers within the 51 offices.

Staff and Programs that support students and the local schools consist of the following:

- **STEP Counselors**

STEP counselors are integral to the training/placement program that prepares students with disabilities for transition to employment and optimum community participation during and after high school. This program utilizes contractual dollars to school districts and service providers to provide for job evaluation, on the job training, job coaching, stipends and other support services. It provides for supervised community-based training experiences which may extend beyond hours of a typical school day.

- **Transition Specialists**

This program provides for cost-sharing between the local school district and the DRS. DRS' involvement in education/vocational rehabilitation planning for customers and potential customers through staff's participation in student multi-disciplinary staffings, school/joint agreements, personnel meeting and in the development of the vocational/transition portion of the IEP. This program provide for continuation of services for all students who have not achieved their vocational objectives by the time they leave school by providing services through the local DRS office.

- **Transition Counselors (School Liaisons)**

Provide and direct relationships with local high schools, their staff and students with disabilities not otherwise served in the STEP Program and their families. The DRS high school liaison counselor provides consultative information and services in the area of vocational and career planning and job engineering to school personnel or other school staff to assist students in their transition years to make the movement to adult services.

- **Bureau of Blind Services Counselors**

DRS provides Vocational Rehabilitation services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Specialized counselors work with students and adults. Additionally, DRS offers services through the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Wood (ICRE-W). Some students choose to enroll in ICRE-W, our residential center in Chicago. ICRE-

W offers a 12-week vocational and independent skills training program. Other individuals who can commute to ICRE-W can also attend independent living classes at the center. Counselors provide:

- o Evaluation and guidance
- o Job development
- o Placement and follow-up services
- o Job training
- o Supported employment
- o Low vision and medical services
- o Educational programs and assistive devices

- **DRS Services for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

DRS' Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf, assist individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing find jobs, get ready to go to work, or obtain services to meet their needs. We serve as a resource to professionals, state agencies, community organizations, and the public, providing information related to employment, training, and accommodations for persons who have a hearing loss.

DRS' Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf are trained to provide personalized services to individuals who have a hearing loss. Counselors provide:

- o Vocational Rehabilitation services
- o Counseling and guidance
- o Assistance with training and technology
- o Resources related to hearing loss
- o Information and referral
- o Interpreter resources and guidelines
- o In-service training
- o Advocacy

- **College Liaisons**

DRS University Liaisons are housed on colleges/universities throughout the state to assist students with disabilities in preparing for and obtaining quality employment that pays a living wage and offers opportunities for advancement. DRS provides services to students attending post-secondary college through on-going cooperative interagency agreements with colleges, assuring students receive supported services and accommodations as needed for successful program completion, and by providing assistance with applications and financial aid applications, and job development.

- **Education**

There are three residential education and outreach programs for children with disabilities. The Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD) and the Illinois School for the Visually Impaired (ISVI) serve children age 0 – 21. Each school offers an accredited birth to three-year-old program, preschool, elementary and high school academic programs as well as vocational and technological training programs, social and health services, and

recreational activities. Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Roosevelt serves students ages 5 to 21 who have severe physical disabilities and associated chronic health conditions. ICRE-R provides elementary and secondary education programs and health related services. We train parents in planning, advocacy, and identifying resources for their child with a disability surrounding (Next Steps Program).

- **Home Services**

The Home Services Program offers children and adults with disabilities who are at risk of premature or unnecessary institutionalization the alternative of in-home care when the cost of home care does not exceed the cost of a long-term care facility.

- **Hispanic/Latino Services**

**DRS help individuals with disabilities who are Hispanic/Latino obtain employment, education and training, and access a variety of community resources. In various areas of the state, Transition Services is a major outreach project. Spanish-speaking staff offers services that are culturally sensitive:**

- Vocational Rehabilitation assists customers in preparing for and finding quality employment.
- Migrant Worker Rehabilitation Project serves migrant and seasonal farm workers with disabilities and their family members.
- Hispanic/Latino Rehabilitation Project provides statewide outreach, information and referral to assist customers in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Home Services programs.
- Leadership Development Training Program prepares Hispanic/Latino customers to serve as advocates on boards and committees.

- **Coordination of Regional and Local Transition Planning Committees**

**The Division of Rehabilitation Services coordinates the establishment of local Transition Planning Committees. Key activities include:**

- Identifying current transition services, programs, and funding sources provided within the community for secondary and post-secondary aged youth with disabilities and their families as well as the development of strategies to address unmet needs;
- Facilitating the development of transition interagency teams to address present and future transition needs of individual students on their individual education plans;
- Providing for the exchange of information such as; appropriate data, effectiveness studies, special projects, exemplary programs, and creative funding of programs through quarterly Regional Transition Consortia;
- Developing consumer in-service and awareness training programs in the local community; and assist in staff training for individual transition planning and student transition needs assessment.

**Illinois Department of Human Services  
Division of Rehabilitation Services  
Transition Services and Planning**

**Illinois Transition Contacts for High School Programs**  
Updated: October 24, 2008

Region	OFFICE	TELEPHONE	SUPERVISOR	TRANSITION CONTACT
1	Arlington Heights	847-658-3483 Voice 888-614-2380 TTY	William Rios	Henry Ferraro Greg Hill Karie Frazier(RCD) Joe Nelluveill Jody Quirk Darlene Washington
1	Avalon Park	773-768-6700 Voice 888-261-8562 TTY	Michelle Rainey	Vacant (RCD) Martha Morris (BBS) Christie Dixon
1	Chicago Heights	708-709-3333 Voice 888-472-0943 TTY	Jeffrey Knox	Gail Andrews (RCD) Mary Faso Renee Thornton Ben MaCarthy (BBS) Andrea Mayberry Gary Rainaldi
1	Evergreen Park	708-857-2350 Voice 888-261-2835 TTY	Michelle Rainey Elayne Weathersby, PhD	Raquel Del-Real Vasquez Jonathan Craig Nicole McNeal McGee Jacquelyn Jenkins Smith Irishsteain Martin - Morse Adisa Olagunle Kimberly Mokris(RCD) Delores Thomas (BBS)
1	Ford City	773-838-5745 Voice 888-261-8570 TTY	Kim Pieczynski	Letitia Chapman Sue Kolinek (RCD) Vivian Lawson Dorothy Lee Cindy Mayer Ebony Sadat-Shelby Janice Welzien
1	Hiawatha	773-794-4800 Voice 888-440-8997 TTY	Deirdre Parrott	Angela Kale Deisy Salgado (RCD) Megan Turner Nancy Otter
1	IIT	312-328-2900 Voice 888-261-7925 TTY	Renard Haygood	Lourdes Garcia Tasha Singleton (RCD) Gina Shanks (BBS)
1	Milwaukee	773-292-4400 Voice 888-261-2824 TTY	Deborah Norfleat	Bonita Husband Kimberly LeFlore Nathan Neely Max Ryser (RCD) Migdalia Morales (BBS)
		773-838-3070 Voice		Chris Dureno (RCD)

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Region	OFFICE	TELEPHONE	SUPERVISOR	TRANSITION CONTACT
1	South Pulaski	773-838-5660 Voice 866-704-2311 TTY	Anita Colvin	HSP Services Only
1	Westchester	708-848-7100 Voice 888-472-0963 TTY	Edwin Negron	Maria Martinez Iris Sanberg Mary Ann Pec Thomas Baxley Miranda Carey (RCD)
1	Wood Street	312-633-3570 Voice 888-261-7913 TTY	Pamela Clay Wilson	Pamela Geddes Mike Nickson Carmen Rodriguez Juan Ortiz (BBS)
2	Aurora	630-892-7417 Voice 888-261-2821 TTY	Andre Howard	Sue Analone (BBS) Lourdes Budilovsky Jan Carey Stacy Zapadinsky
2	DeKalb	815-758-2471 Voice 888-261-2865 TTY	Andre Howard	Richard Robart
2	Downers Grove	630-495-0500 Voice 888-261-8512 TTY	Marilyn Liwanag	Ana Armeanu. Deborah Chatman James Green (BBS) Connie Jenner Barbara Kaurin Keith McKinley Tom Napoiski Janis Scott-Wilkes Sarah Tatham Craig Wallerstein (RCD)
2	Elgin	847-931-2360 Voice 888-472-0933 TTY	Robert Scanlan	Bruce Fackler Joe O'Donnell (RCD)
2	Freeport	815-233-5904 Voice 888-460-5122 TTY	Chris Eickhorst	Dawn Gimple Louise Hrubycky
2	Joliet	815-730-4200 Voice 888-472-0932 TTY	Tammy Nemeth	Cassandra Hotchkiss Mark Muir (Spanish Speaking) Mary Ann Rice (RCD) Pat Walsh
2	Kankakee	815-939-4422 Voice 888-440-9010 TTY	Tammy Nemeth	Bryan Hall Pamela Thomas (Spanish Speaking)
		815-964-0333 Voice		Ivette Aonte

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Region	OFFICE	TELEPHONE	SUPERVISOR	TRANSITION CONTACT
				Bill Meyer James Moore (BBS) RCD (Vacant)
2	Rockford South	815-484-8120 Voice 888-340-1006 TTY	Mark Krupke	HSP Services Only
2	Sterling	815-625-8885 Voice 888-340-1004 TTY	Chris Eickhorst	Peter Noll Louise Hruby
2	Waukegan	847-244-8474 Voice 888-460-5146 TTY	Greg Battle	Latricia Davis Barry Godsey William Fischer Rick Roberts (RCD) Henry Zwartz
3	Bloomington	309-662-1347 Voice 888-261-8539 TTY	David Reed	Steve Kull Juliene Longworth Jose Martinez Ann Ndorongo
3	Champaign	217-278-3500 Voice 888-472-0940 TTY	Aletha Alexander	Piedad Arias-Hutchison (BBS) Michael Bryant Andrew Feller (RCD) Mark Schneider
3	Danville	217-446-0230 Voice 888-472-0936 TTY	Aletha Alexander	Becky Robinson Melissa Ronto
3	Galesburg	309-343-2193 Voice 888-460-5116 TTY	Karen Engstrom	Vacant
3	LaSalle	815-224-1314 Voice 888-472-0960 TTY	James Knauf	Carlos Alvarado Paul Breidenbach (RCD) Doris Frederick Rachel Johnson (RCT)
3	Macomb	309-833-4573 Voice 888-261-2867 TTY	Karen Engstrom	Brian Davenport
3	Pekin	309-353-5996 Voice 888-340-1008 TTY	Dave Reed	Joyce Aarestad James Zachman
3	Peoria	309-686-6000 Voice 888-614-2380 TTY	Lizette Tripur	James Baske (BBS) Leigh Bowen Wendy Carrington (RCD) William Holt Todd Walton

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3	Rock Island	309-786-6468 Voice 888-261-7919 TTY	Vickie Mayfield	Debbie Girard Don Kearney Rhonda Erickson
4	Decatur	217-875-4866 Voice 888-472-0934 TTY	Paula Ferguson	Dave Bartels
4	Jacksonville	217-245-9585 Voice 888-261-8516 TTY	Paula Ferguson	Randy Dionne Tim Preston (RCD) Andy Feller (RCD) Kenneth Hull Dennis Kelahan (BBS) Emily Vincent
4	Mattoon	217-235-3154 Voice 888-261-2869 TTY	Dorothy Neal	Carla Neal
4	Springfield	217-782-4830 Voice 888-440-8990 TTY	Martin Pereira	Connie Darnell Diane DeGroot Alicia Rentmeister Patty Shefer Kristin Wagner
4	Quincy	217-224-2600 Voice 866-928-3343 TTY	Donna Ryan	Sherry Anderson Donna Carlson (RCD) Joni Denny Michelle Wellman
5	Alton	618-258-9996 Voice 888-440-9008 TTY	Dionne Jackson	Kristen Bethke Janet Kohlbecker (RCD) Bob Deem Connie Landre Deb Mezo Lisa Osborne
5	Anna/JAMP	618-833-5115 Voice 888-460-5140 TTY	Rita Howells, Interim	Connie Kramer Nancy Turini
5	Belleville	618-235-5300 Voice 888-460-5133 TTY	Brenda Mersinger-Klein	Carolyn Lynch-Wells Carolann MacAfee Kathy Murphy Carol Hechenberger Susan Peters (BBS)
5	Benton	618-439-4334 Voice 888-261-2838 TTY	Joan Jablonski-Baxter	Jennifer Gordon (RCD) Cathy Overturf

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5	Carbondale/SIU	618-457-2107 Voice 888-460-5124 TTY	Keo Sabengsy	Steve Bracewell Dennis Gibbons Tammy Watson
5	East St. Louis	618-583-2200 Voice 888-460-5117 TTY	John Cowan	Vanessa Collier
5	Harrisburg	618-253-7681 Voice 888-460-5123 TTY	Joan Jablonski-Baxter	Bryce Hampton Michelle Lankford Mike Reel Tim Spencer
5	Mt Vernon	618-244-0331 Voice 888-340-10 TTY	Anthony Jones, Interim	Charles Jones Lisa Brink
5	Olney	618-395-2147 Voice 888-472-0926 TTY	Dorothy Neal	Denice Smith (RCD) Anita Race
<p><b>TRANSITION ADVISORS</b></p> <p>Stephen Bixler ~312.814-7210 Kathy Kaniewsk ~ 312.814-5761 Janet Koch ~ 815-223-7758 Claire Smith ~ 618-244-6416 Susan Taylor ~ 217-785-7762</p> <p><b>STEP ADMINISTRATOR</b> Louis Hamer</p> <p><b>TRANSITION ADMINISTRATOR</b> Marva Campbell-Pruitt</p> <p><b>ASSISTANT BUREAU CHIEFS</b> Region 1 ~ Elayne Weathersby, PhD Region 2 ~ Ron Sazone Region 3 ~ John Jacobson Region 4 &amp; 5 ~ Jo Ancell</p>				

## List of DRS University Counselors

### **EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Carla Neal, Counselor  
Mattoon DRS Office  
129 N 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
V (217)235-3154 TTY (888)261-2869 Fax: (217)235-3160

### **GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY**

Tim Preston, Counselor  
Jacksonville DRS Office  
1429 S Main Street, Suite C  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
V (217) 245-9585 TTY (888) 261-8516 Fax (217) 243-8131

### **ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Rod Pierce, Counselor  
Normal DRS Office  
207 S. Prospect Rd  
ISU  
604 Dale St, Suite A-2  
Normal, IL 61761  
V (309) 662-1347 or (303) 438-5853 TTY (888) 261-8539 Fax (309) 664 6171

### **NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Beatrice Mwinzi, Counselor  
DeKalb DRS Office  
1330 Oakwood, Avenue  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
V (815) 758-2471 or (815) 753-0238 TTY (888) 261-2865 Fax (815) 758-6942

### **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY At Edwardsville**

Kristen Bethke, Counselor  
River Bend DRS Office  
606 W St. Louis Avenue  
East Alton, IL 62024  
V (618) 258-9996 TTY (888)440-9008 Fax (618)258-7274

### **UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

Temporary Assignment – Contact Supervisor, Aletha Alexander  
Champaign DRS Office  
1307 N. Mattis Ave  
Champaign, IL 61820  
V (217) 278-3500 TTY (888) 472- 0940 Fax (217) 278- 3505

### **WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Mark Hennig, Counselor  
Macomb DRS Office  
1200-1 W Jackson  
V (309) 833-4573 TTY (888) 261-2867 Fax (309) 833-5953

## Important 2009 Meeting Dates

### REGIONAL CONSORTIUMS ON TRANSITION

**Locations:** To be Determined

**Time:** 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**Contact:** Marva Campbell-Pruitt ~ 312.814.5081 or [Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.Gov)

#### Region 1

January 28, 2009

April 15, 2009

November 5, 2009

#### Region 4

March 4, 2009

September 2, 2009

December 2, 2009

#### Region 2

February 19, 2009

May 7, 2009

October 8, 2009

#### Region 5

March 18, 2009

September 9, 2009

December 9, 2009

#### Region 3

February 18, 2009

May 28, 2009

October 7, 2009

### ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (IICC)

**Location:** Illinois State Board of Education, V-Tel Conference Rooms – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Springfield/Chicago Offices

**Time:** 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. Unless Otherwise Posted

**Contact:** Marva Campbell-Pruitt ~ 312.814.5081 or [Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.Gov)

*Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Illinois State Board of Education (Voice: 217/782-5589 and TTY: 217/782-1900) at least one week prior to the meeting date to allow time for making accommodations.*

January 23, 2009

February 10, 2009

(Joint IICC/ISAC Meeting)

March 26, 2009

May 21, 2009

July 23, 2009

September 17, 2009

November 19, 2009

## Important 2009 Meeting Dates

### ILLINOIS STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (ISAC)

**Location:** Illinois State Board of Education, 100 S. First Street, Springfield, IL

**Time:** 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. and 8:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

**Contact:** Marva Campbell-Pruitt ~ 312.814.5081 [Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Marva.Campbell-Pruitt@Illinois.Gov) or [Kstratto@ISBE.net](mailto:Kstratto@ISBE.net)

*Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Individuals requiring special accommodations should contact the Illinois State Board of Education (Voice: 217/782-5589 and TTY: 217/782-1900) at least one week prior to the meeting date to allow time for making accommodations.*

Feb 10-11

April 22-23

June 10-11

October 14 – 15

December 16 & 17

### STEP ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Location:** DRS Central Office, Springfield and the James R. Thompson Center, Chicago.

**Time:** 10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**Contact:** Louis Hamer ~ 312.814.2934 or [Louis.Hamer@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Louis.Hamer@Illinois.Gov)

January 21, 2009

April 21, 2009

June 2, 2009 (Tentative)

August 4, 2009

October 6, 2009