



**2021**  
**Transition Conference**  
**Program of Study**

**April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am - 1:00pm**  
**Location: Microsoft Teams**

**“I Can. I Will.”**

## Thank You to all our Conference Sponsors:

- **Deroyal Industries,**
- **Support & Training for Exceptional Parents, Inc. (STEP, Inc.),**
- **RHA Health Services,**
- **SERTOMA,**
- **Our Place Art Organization Incorporated,**
- **City of Knoxville Disability Service Office (ADA),**
- **The ARC Tennessee,**
- **The Access Academy, and**
- **Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT)**

**This would not be possible without your support**

## GENERAL SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

**9:30am - 10:30am Keynote Speaker**

Question and Answer Segment

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**10:30am -10:45am Break with [Presentation Link](#)**

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**10:45am - 11:45am Break-Out Session One**

One Student Session Offering  
Three Parent Session Offerings

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**11:45am - 12:00pm Break with [Presentation Link](#)**

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**12:00pm - 1:00pm Breakout Session Two**

One Student Session Offering  
Three Parent Session Offerings

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## Conference Goals

### **“I Can.” – Connection**

1. Connect students and families with agencies that can advise and facilitate in the transition process.
2. Increase knowledge of transition services offered to students in Knox County Schools.
3. Ensure conference is inclusive and equitable.

### **“I Will.” – Self-Advocacy and Empowerment**

1. Provide parents with information and resources. Strengthen parents’ confidence in their student’s transition options by sharing information and resources.
  2. Elevate students’ voices through student-led planning and participation.
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**Local Agencies - Community Resource Page [Link](#)**

## Keynote: 9:30am - 10:30am

**Audience:** *All Participants*

### Session Description:

To kick off our 2021 Virtual Transition Conference, you will hear from **three East TN high school graduates** who will discuss their successes, their challenges, and give personal advice about transitioning into life after high school when you are a student with a disability. There will be a **live Question and Answer session** with the students following their presentation video.

## Break: 10:30am - 10:45am

Transition Conference Agency Sponsors [Presentation](#)

## Breakout Session One: 10:45am - 11:45am

### **Student Session:** *Planning a Perfect Life: Your Voice-Your Choice*

**Presenter(s):** *Joey Ellis - Family/Youth Educator and Mentor, Post-Secondary Transition Specialist, STEP, Inc.*

### Session Description:

Transitioning from High School to Post-Secondary Life brings many new opportunities and responsibilities. This interactive session will focus on building skills necessary to help youth become more independent. Participants in this session will begin to learn the importance of speaking up for themselves, job readiness and budget planning with a hands on approach that is designed to peak student' interest.

#### *Parent Session A:*

**Vocational Rehabilitation & ECF Choices - Who Can Help My Transitioning Student Get a Job?**

#### **Presenter(s):**

- Mark Rottero & Beth Edwards - *Vocational Rehabilitation*
- Conya Mull - *UHC*
- Judy Pate - *Amerigroup*
- Kristen Calloway - *Blue Care (tentative)*

#### **Session Description:**

Representatives from Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment and Community First (ECF) Choices will discuss their

#### *Parent Session B:*

**Planning for the Future of a Loved One with a Disability / Supported Decision Making**

#### **Presenter(s):**

- Amelia Crotwell - *Elder Law of East Tennessee*
- Cameron Hart & Elisa Hertzan - *Disability Rights TN*

#### **Session Description:**

Planning for the future of your child after high school can seem like a daunting task. Our session will cover Special Needs Trusts, Wills, ABLE Accounts, and Conservatorships.

As parents begin to transition with their

#### *Parent Session C:*

**Help! I Need To Understand the Transition Planning Process**

#### **Presenter(s):**

- Sheena Rauhuff - *Knox County Schools*

#### **Session Description:**

A session to provide attendees with insight into the transition planning process and assist in an understanding of how plans are developed for students' individualized education plans. In addition, working with students to be strong

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| respective job training and integrated employment programs for young adults with disabilities. Learn more about their application process and eligibility requirements. | kids we want to make sure that they are aware of Supported Decision making and how to incorporate it into their school and personal lives. SDM can be applied as a best practice to ensure the least restrictive environment. | self-advocates, reviewing diploma options and pathways, and how we as stakeholders can be effective team members in helping students realize their post-secondary goals and potential. |
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**Break: 11:45am - 12:00pm**

**Transition Conference Agency Sponsors [Presentation](#)**

**Breakout Session Two: 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

**Student Session: What Do I Do Now!?! Dealing with the Stress of Graduating from High School and Becoming an Adult**

**Presenter(s):** Jessica Kotik and Chelsea Wilson - *Program Instructors at UT Future*

**Session Description:**

In this session, students will learn how to identify things that cause stress, known as "stressors", in their life and recognize their body's response to those stressors. A focus will be placed on stressors students most often experience during the transition out of high school and into postsecondary settings. They will also learn how stress affects our everyday lives. Students will take part in different stress relief techniques before creating an individual stress-relief plan.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parent Session A:</i><br/><b>What's Next? Non-degree options for your student after high school</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danny Matthews &amp; Vanessa Brown - Project Search</li> <li>• Emma Burgin - UT Future</li> <li>• Yolanda Williams - TN College of Applied Technology (TCAT)</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Description:</b></p> <p>Confused about what should be next for your student after high school? There are options! This</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parent Session B:</i><br/><b>Come Live Independently With Us</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nichol Craig - Statewide ECF Coordinator for RHA</li> <li>• Katherine Moore - Executive Director disABLITY Resource Center</li> <li>• Mike Scripa Assistant Director of disABLITY Resource Center</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Description:</b></p> <p>It takes a collaborating village; through</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Parent Session C:</i><br/><b>Letting Go: Preparing for Life After Graduation</b></p> <p><b>Presenter(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Ross - Facilitator</li> <li>• Wendy Erwin - CTE/ Parent</li> </ul> <p><b>Session Description:</b></p> <p>Letting go, while still holding on: how to prepare You and your child for the Next Chapter of Transition. A discussion from an educator's and parent's</p> |
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| <p>panel discussion will provide insight into 3 local, non-degree seeking programs that are offered in the Knoxville area. This is a great chance to learn about Project Search, the University of Tennessee's FUTURE Program and the TN college of Applied Technology (TCAT). Representatives from each program will be on hand to answer all your questions.</p> | <p>dRC's services and transition programs, high school and college aged youth with disabilities learn to live, work and play as independently as possible in their own community. In this session you will learn about RHA's housing employment, and community integration services. Through this interactive presentation, these two agencies will describe their services and demonstrate the positive effect of supportive collaborations which empowers our communities' youth to live as independently as possible .</p> | <p>perspective on how to prepare your child for the next steps. What questions do you ask yourself and your child; defining/evaluation independence and suggestions to help prepare</p> |
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