**Recommendations to Improve Transition Outcomes for students with Deaf-Blindness and Additional Disabilities**

Drop in call #8, April 24, 2019 highlights:

The *Recommendations to Improve Transition Outcomes for Students with Deaf-Blindness and Additional Disabilities* were developed to ensure that students with deaf-blindness and long-term support needs are included and can access quality lives in their communities. Based on current laws, policies, and best practices, they provide information and recommendations in six essential areas:

* + Training and technical assistance to increase expectations
  + Work experiences
  + Community activities and living
  + School-adult agency collaboration
  + Qualified personnel in schools and adult service agencies
  + Family education and engagement

**Recommendation 6:**Educate Families: Efforts to educate, empower and engage families to lead the charge for their adult child

We discussed the impact of parents’ expectations for their adult child and how strongly they impact that child’s outcomes of employment and adult life. Parents need to know the laws the impact transition services IDEA and WIOA) so they are aware of what their child can be receiving for services and their potential employability. See “why this is important” in recommendation #6 for links to resources about WIOA, CMS guidelines, IDEA…

It is challenging to find a way to package information for families so they know about all the services and timelines they will need to assist their adult child. Families can be very overwhelmed at this point of their child’s education.

Helpful hints included:

* Practice for the “big transition” school to adult life, at every little transition including elementary school to middle school.
* Empower and Educate families early!
* Encourage families to keep a journal where they write down information and advice so they can access it when they need it or are ready to use it.

Use the resources within the recommendations to find out about how adult services such as Medicaid Waivers work in your state to ensure that families know what their child may be eligible for and what they waiting looks like for the service.

Join with other state efforts that are already creating user friendly information, or training for families on Transition.