

Youth Transition Summit :

A View From the Top

June 22, 24 and 29 2021



Welcome

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Youth Summit- Climb Every Mountain: A View from the Top. Transitioning into adulthood is just like climbing a mountain. It can be scary and very unpredictable, but you know that you must reach the top. Transition must happen. You may not know how to transition from a pediatric to an adult health care provider. You may not know how to ride a bus or train. You may even have difficulty understanding supported decision making and conservatorship. Well... look no further. You will be given the proper tools (resources) to climb your mountain successfully. You will walk away from this youth summit with a full transition plan at your fingertips. We will cover every domain of transition from health care through legal concerns. Get your laptops ready and prepare to learn!!



**Advocating for U(s)
Youth Series
Agenda
Tuesday, June 22, 2021**

10:30am-11:15am

Jalen Franklin, Youth Guest Speaker

Spend time with Jalen Franklin as he explains his experiences with transition. Jalen is a high school sophomore from Charlotte, North Carolina. He serves as a Youth Health Advisor for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health and is a planning committee member for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) annual conference.

11:30am-12:15pm

Rachel Dyer, Senior Director of Operations

This session will be led by staff from the Junior Achievement of Middle TN. During this session, you will learn how to save, budget, and invest money for your future. This includes learning how to save for college. You will have several community resources at your fingertips as you fill in the financial portion of your transition guide.

12:30pm-1:15pm

Dora Easterling, Statewide IL Council of TN

This section will be led by the Executive Director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of TN. This expert will share services and resources available to increase your independent living skills. You will learn about transportation, housing, and more as you fill in the independent living portion of your transition guide. Do not forget... ASK QUESTIONS!

**Advocating for U(s)
Youth Series
Agenda
Thursday, June 24, 2021**

9:30am-10:15am

Camron Hurt, Paralegal and Elisa Hertzan, Attorney

Do you have questions about conservatorship, supported decision making, or power of attorney? Do you have legal questions in general? Spend time with the Attorney and Paralegal, also called the DYNAMIC DUO from Disability Rights TN. They will teach you everything that you need to know as you transition into adulthood. Get your pen and paper ready!

10:30am-11:15am

Wendi Gearing, Educational Consultant

During this session, you will meet with staff from Transition TN! Prepare your mind to learn about all your options after high school. Hear directly from youth and experts as you fill in this portion of your transition guide.

11:30am-12:15pm

Margenia Davis, VR Counselor, Blake Shearer, Transition Director

You will have the opportunity to meet with the Transition Director and VR Counselor from Vocational Rehabilitation where you will learn about programs and services to prepare you for transition into the work force. You will be able to fill in the employment section of your transition guide as you learn about available community resources and services.

Advocating for U(s) Youth Series Agenda Tuesday, June 29, 2021

9:30am-10:15am

Jama Mohamed, Youth Coordinator

This session will be led by the Youth Coordinator from Family Voices of TN and Vanderbilt LEND Trainees. You will have a chance to identify your support systems and things they contribute to your life. You will also learn about different ways to build your social skills as you transition into adulthood.

10:30am-11:15am

Jalyn Marks, Young Adult Guest Speaker

Jalyn Marks is a disability rights advocate who uses plain language and the stories of people with lived experience to highlight access needs and resources for people with disabilities and their families. Spend time with Jalyn as she walks through her transition to adult health care.

11:30am-12:15pm

Transition Guide Review

Jalen Franklin

Jalen Franklin is a high school sophomore from Charlotte, North Carolina. He serves as a Youth Health Advisor for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health and is a planning committee member for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) annual conference. During the 2020 AMCHP conference, Jalen served as a panelist during the "Inside a Teen's Mind: Empower Youth, Empower You" plenary session. Some of his hobbies are playing the piano and trombone and watching sports.



Dora Easterling

Dora Easterling is the Executive Director for the Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee. She has over a decade of working with youth and people with disabilities, helping them live life according to their goals and desires. Dora has had the privilege of traveling this nation and learning from some of the heroes of independent living. As well as speaking nationally on the same endeared subject; and alongside many of those heroes. Her goal is to be enriched by the people she encounters and leave everyone she meets richer for the knowledge she has attained.



Jalyn Marks

Jalyn Marks is a disability rights advocate who uses plain language and the stories of people with lived experience to highlight access needs and resources for people with disabilities and their families. Jalyn is currently a student at Georgetown University, pursuing her Master's in Communications, Culture & Technology and certification in Disability Studies. She also has a fellowship in the University's learning center with the Engelhard Project, where she provides support to faculty concerned with their students' wellbeing and flourishing. Jalyn also works for the Georgetown University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities doing communications and accessibility. Jalyn reminds anyone reading her bio that your story matters, and you can use it to advocate for yourself and others!



Blake Shearer

Blake Shearer is the VR Transition Director with the Tennessee Department of Human Services who has a passion for helping to improve the postsecondary outcomes of students with disabilities through collaborative efforts. He served in various roles within the education system for 15 years, from paraprofessional, to classroom teacher, district-wide supervisor, and state Department of Education director for transition services prior to joining VR in 2019. He, along with a statewide team of over 25, help to oversee Pre-Employment Transition Services, Transition School to Work grants, and Tennessee's 17 Project SEACH programs.



Rachel Dyer

Rachel Dyer is originally from Scotland but has found her home at JA of Middle Tennessee where she has led the operations and programs department for 14 years. After receiving her BAcc (Honors) from the University of Glasgow, Rachel spent nine years garnering experience in corporate finance, including four years' experience in the financial management and operations of non-profit organizations. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant in England, worked for a multi-national company, and led a finance department. Along with her education and experience, she received a MA in Civic Leadership, which equipped her with stronger skills in program development. She is passionate about developing relevant, experiential programming to prepare individuals to lead healthy financial lives.



Special Thanks

- Jalen Franklin, Guest Speaker
- Jalyn Marks, Guest Speaker
- Jacqueline Johnson, Section Chief CYSHCN
Department of Health
- Kara Adams, Director
Family Voices of TN
- Jama Mohamed, Youth Coordinator
Family Voices of TN
- Jessica Awsumb, Research Associate
Vanderbilt University
- Tonya Bowman, Family Resource Specialist
Family Voices of TN
- Ben Yarnell, Director of Special Projects
TN Department of Health
- Rebecca Nanney, Media Production Director
TN Department of Health
- Elisa Hertzan, Attorney
Disability Rights TN
- Dora Easterling, Executive Director
Independent Living Council of TN

Special Thanks

- Camron Hurt, Paralegal
Disability Rights TN
- Blake Shearer, Transition Director
Vocational Rehabilitation
- Amanda Thomas, VR Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation
- Margenia Davis, VR Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation
- Kathryn Jordan, JA Finance Park Manager
Junior Achievement of Middle TN
- Rachel Dyer, Senior Director of Operations
Junior Achievement of Middle TN
- Traci Foyster, Family and Youth Program Manager
Family Voices of TN
- Wendi Gearing, Educational Consultant
Vanderbilt University

***It has been an honor to work alongside this
amazing group of people. Each person has worked
hard to ensure a successful event. Thank you all so
much!***

-Kendra Mitchell

