

Working with State Agencies on Inclusion of Para Sport Youth

Adaptive Sports USA National
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Presenter

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Outline

- Introductions
- Ways State Agencies Engage
- Applicable Federal Laws & Programs
- Examples in Massachusetts
- Discussion: Examples in other states
- Affinity Group Action Planning



Introductions

- Name
- State
- Organization
- Program Overview
- Inclusion in school and community sports
- Engagement of State Government



Ways State Agencies Engage

- Propose or support Legislation
- Regulations
- Enforcement
- Technical Assistance, Guidance and Support
- Convening meetings/conversations
- Informal guidance
- Funding



Federal Laws – MA Agencies

- Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - Dept of Education
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Section 504
 - MOD
 - Department of Education
- Workforce Improvement Opportunity Act
 - Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
 - Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)



Inclusion in School Sports

- Section 504 – US Dept of Education Office for Civil Rights
 - January 2013 Guidance
- MA Office on Disability
 - Writing guidance that mirror USDoE Guidance
 - Collaborating with MA DoE & MIAA (H.S. athletic assn.)
 - Adaptive Sports NE on MIAA Inclusion Committee



Agencies – School Sports

- Adaptive Sports NE guided MIAA format for inclusion:
 - Track and Field
 - Cross Country
 - Swimming
 - Tennis (USTA)
- Adaptive Sports NE advising MOD and Dept of Education on guidance for School Districts regarding inclusion in sports.
 - Focused on but not limited to existing MIAA solutions



Community Sports Programs

Support for Transition age students (ages 14-22):

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) requires that each state's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) system play a larger role in transition from school to adult life.
- The WIOA requires that states expend 15% of all federal VR funds on Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). In Massachusetts this has resulted in \$3.6m in contracts to implement this program.



Pre-ETS

- Pre Employment Transition Services include:
 - Work Based Learning Experience/Internship
 - Job Exploration Counseling
 - Workplace Readiness Training
 - Self-Advocacy Instruction/Development
 - Counseling on Post-Secondary Enrollment
- Workplace Readiness includes development of confidence, leadership, resilience, discipline, and teamwork.



Agencies – Community Sports

- Adaptive Sports NE has proposed to MA Commission for the Blind that they fund participation in Paralympic Sport Club Boston programs by youth who are Pre-ETS eligible.
 - Swimming
 - Track & Field
 - Rowing (with Community Rowing, Inc.)
 - Sailing (planned)
- Adaptive Sports NE is seeking out collaboration with Easter Seals or another partner to garner similar support for participation in PSC Boston by youth with mobility impairments who are Pre-ETS eligible.



MA Commission for the Blind

- MCB has funds to pay for participation of u14 youth in PSC Boston programs depending on family priorities and financial need.
- MCB will use its network of social workers to communicate opportunity to youth up to age 22.



Discussion and Planning

- Group by state and by similar states
- Discuss current and future programs
- Consider applicability of State government.

Thank You



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