

TAVAC Region IV Report

Transitional Specialist and VACs from Region 19 attended the Transition Network Meeting on February 17, 2011 to hear a presentation from Raquel Lauretano-El Paso Probate Court on Guardianship. She also sponsored some of the Transitional Specialists and VACs to attend El Paso County Probate Courts and Probate Bar Association, "The Process of Guardianship Annual Conference," a day long presentation on Guardianship. This included the roles and input from physicians and lawyers.

Angelica Rodriguez shared information with us on Graduation Updates the Commissioner Rules and information The Texas Transition Conference. This information may be viewed on <http://region19transition.wikispaces.com/>. After the morning Transition Network Meeting, we had training on Understanding the Summary of Performance, a CD by James Patton and Pro-Ed. This is a very user friendly program. The attendees received a CD of the Summary of Performance provided with funds by ESC Region 19 Special Ed.-High School Transition.

On February 19, 2011 Region 19, UTEP, and El Paso Community College sponsored EPCC/UTEP Day for Students with Disabilities and Their Families at El Paso Community College-Valle Verde Campus. The students and their parents learned about enrollment, registration and degree programs available at both Post-Secondary Schools. They also learned about programs and services available to them such as DARS, Office of Students with Disabilities, and Disabled Student Services Office.

February 27-March 1, representatives from ESC Region 19, YLF mentors, a VAC and a ADAPT member attended the TALAC (Texas Advanced Leadership and Advocacy Conference) held in Austin. The keynote speakers were Micah Feldman and Norman Kunc. The students heard from informative and motivating speakers, participated in the Legislative visits and attended the Hearing to change the Transition age from the 16 to age 14.

March 5, 2011, the CDIC (Children's Disabilities Information Coalition) Symposium was held and the topic was "Transition Begins Now." TAVAC ESC Representative, Angelica Rodriguez presented at the Symposium. She also presented at the Texas Transition Conference.

After Spring Break, Region 19 YLF Delegates, Mentors and Co-Project Coordinators attended the Texas Youth Leadership Forum Camp Summit in Argyle, TX. The delegates presented their Leadership Plan which were developed in July at TX YLF and worked on throughout the school year. On the same weekend, March 26, 2011, the YLF delegates attended training at the Upper Rio Grande Workforce Solutions on Career Awareness and Resources in the Community. The remainder of the Youth Leadership Forum meetings will be April 30 on Self Advocacy and May 8 for the end of the year celebration.

Our next Transition Network Meetings will be April 21 and May 19.

TAEP has been discussing the topics of the Constitution, Awards, TAEP goals and fundraising. We presently have a fundraiser for the TAEP Scholarship for which we are selling Java Joes Coffee. TAEP meets prior to the Transition Network Meetings.

We have two new members, Joe Zajemski from Coronado High School in El Paso ISD and returning John Eyberg from Parkland High School in Ysleta ISD. That makes 15 TAVAC Members from Region IV.