Personal Networks: Enriching Life in the Present and Providing for the Future

TEXAS NETWORK CONNECTIONS
Creating Community for People with Disabilities
How are we, as parents, going to make sure that our son or daughter with a disability has a good life, both now and after we die?

Who will make sure that the plans we have arranged and the services we have secured are implemented and functioning well after we are gone?

How do we make sure our child is not lonely, isolated or neglected?

How do we give caring friends and family an opportunity to have a fulfilling relationship with our child?

How am I, a person with a disability, going to achieve these goals for myself?
What We’ll Cover Today

• What is a personal network?
• History of networks
• Texas Network Connections (TxNC)
• Key components of networks
• Networks in action!
• Starting a network
• Q & A

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What is a Personal Network?
Lucas’ Lineup—2019
What is a Personal Network?

A personal network is an intentional community of friends, family members and acquaintances who assist and collaborate with a person at risk of isolation and his/her family. Personal networks promote planning and social opportunities, assist with decision-making and goal setting, and work with the person at the center to be a sustainable resource after parents can no longer be available.
The Personal Network Video
History of Personal Networks
TEXAS NETWORK CONNECTIONS (TxNC)
Creating Community for People with Disabilities

• Network facilitation services
• Do-it-Yourself (DIY) Manual on Starting a Personal Network
• DIY Workshops & TAGs
• Introductory Presentations
• TxP2P Transition Center of Central Texas

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Networks in Action!
Just for Jaclyn—2014

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Networks in Action!
The Gift Keepers—2018
Networks in Action!
Elana’s Rose Garden—2015
Networks In Action!
Five Key Components of Networks

#1 Relationships are the key to a good life and the foundation of networks

#2 No disability precludes relationship

#3 Successful networks are directed by individuals and/or families

#4 Networks focus on contribution

#5 Everyone benefits -- community
Starting a Network
Naruto Network—2018
Starting a Network
Start Young!
The Three Phases of Network Development: Invitation, Development & Maintenance
Phase One: Invitation
Invitation: Who do I Invite?

- Identify people in your life:
  - Immediate and extended family
  - Neighbors, family friends, church members
  - Professionals who have worked with you, your son, or daughter (school, attendants, therapists, etc)
  - People who you want to get to know better, but have never known how to
  - People who share common interests with you
Siblings Love Networks!
Invitation: Is it easy?
Or is it hard?

Asking is the #1 challenge to starting a network
Invitation: Host an Invitation Meeting

• Snacks and socializing
• Welcomes and Introductions. How do you know the person at the center?
• What is a personal network?
• Why are we starting a personal network?
• What are the commitments of network members?
• The Ask: To join or not join the network?
Phase Two: Development
The Journey Begins: Network Meetings
SNAPshots—2014
Development: Network Meetings
Socializing and Eating!

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Development: Network Meetings
Taking Care of Business

AGENDA

Introductions. What’s new with members?

Getting started: Develop the Network

• Think about a name
• List and assign roles
• Communication tool: Email? Text? Website? Facebook?
• Decide when to meet, how often, where, etc…

Getting to know Maverick and his supports, part 1:

Activity Calendar:

• Deadlines
• Appointments
• celebrations

Next Meeting
Adjourn
Development: Network Meetings
Format & Goals
Development: What Do Networks Do?

- Meet for two hours, 3-4 times per year
- Provide social opportunities
- Help person at center to identify and articulate his or her needs from the network
- Offer guidance and mentorship
- Assist with goal setting
- Monitor services
- Learn about disability issues
- Explore employment options
- Eat good food and drink
- Have fun!
Network Meetings: Just Do It!
Rebecca’s Network—2018
Phase Three:
Maintenance and Sustainability
The Waco’s—2018
Maintenance and Sustainability: SNAPshots Celebrates Another Year And Overcomes Network Hurdles!
Just for Jaclyn Launches in 2015
Just 4 Jaclyn in 2019
Maintenance and Sustainability: The Wacos Take Charge in 2018!
Maintenance and Sustainability: The Cavern Club Keeps on Rockin!
Cavern Club—2009
Developing a healthy, sustainable network takes years
And...that’s okay.
Networks are a work in progress!
Over time, as networks mature, relationships deepen and members become more invested in each other’s lives.

Colter’s Intelligence Agency (CIA)—2017
Texas Network Connections
https://www.txp2p.org/services/texas-network-connections

Pathways to Adulthood
https://www.txp2p.org/services-for-parents-pathway-to-adulthood

Transition Center of Central Texas
https://www.txp2p.org/services/services-for-parents-pathway-to-adulthood/transition-center

For more information about these and other TxP2P programs, contact Cynda Green at 737-484-9045 or cynda.green@txp2p.org