



THE CONNECT-NLC STRATEGIC PLAN
Arc of New London County

Submitted December 15, 2008 – Approved January 15, 2009

PLAN AT A GLANCE

CONNECT-NLC launches a mini-pilot **m-p/3 project** identifying 3 students from 3 high schools by the end of January, 2009, working with 3 adult service providers to identify and work with 3 employers through the summer and continuing through the start of school again in September 2009. Students, their families, transition counselors, providers and employers will all receive *Best Practices* information and technical assistance where needed.

CONNECT-NLC is created as a self-standing collaborative resource center with four committees:

The ***Advocacy and Self-Advocacy Committee*** will host meetings of young self advocates to explore employability issues, expand the role of *Best Buddies Programs* throughout New London County, and create “bridge” services between school advocacy and adult advocacy.

The ***Systems Coordination Committee*** will identify Best Practices throughout the region, explore ways to increase the use of paid internships, conduct regular forums with adult service resources (DDS, DHMAS, DCF, ILCs, BRS, etc.) to explore the structure of contracts and systems accountability, examine Transportation issues and apply for *United We Ride* grant funding, increase the utilization of *One-Stop* services for transitioning students.

The ***Information Dissemination Committee*** will utilize mixed media in its efforts to disseminate information including live forums, DVD recordings of these forums, a Public Access Cable program, and explore the possibility of using infrastructure monies to fund its own webpage, consolidate and share information on Transition, So5 Medicaid program, SSI/SSDI benefits, etc.

The ***Employer Engagement Committee*** will create a newsletter for employers, a speaker’s bureau of employers who have hired employees with disabilities, meet with employers to share Connect-Ability information at Rotary Club meeting and Chambers of Commerce meetings as well as hosting “*Business After Hours*” info sessions, and help generate training for Unions to help them serve prospective members with disabilities.