



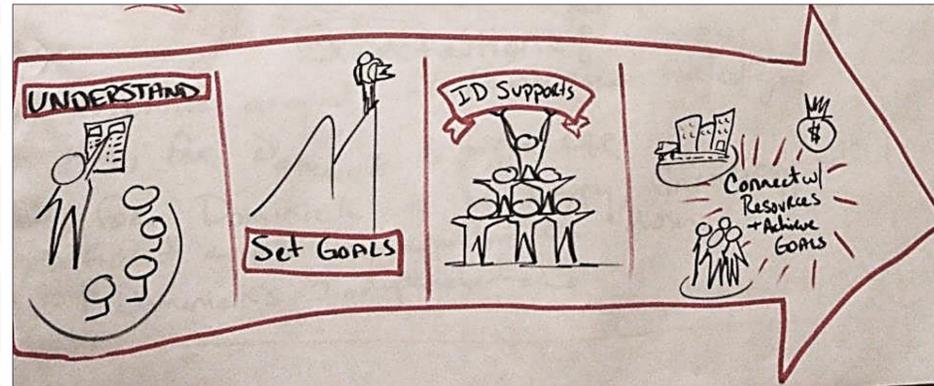
Lauren Beaudoin- Occupational Therapy Trainee

Project Partners:

Leadership in Neurodevelopment Disabilities (LEND)- Interdisciplinary educational program aimed at improving the system of care for children and families.

Institute on Disability- Program and policy development to improve access and opportunities for people with disabilities.

University of Vermont- Research team leading projects to increase the efficacy of RENEW.



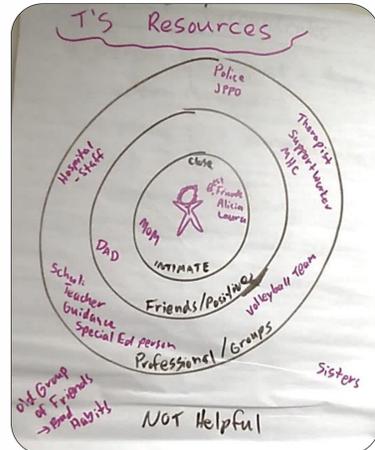
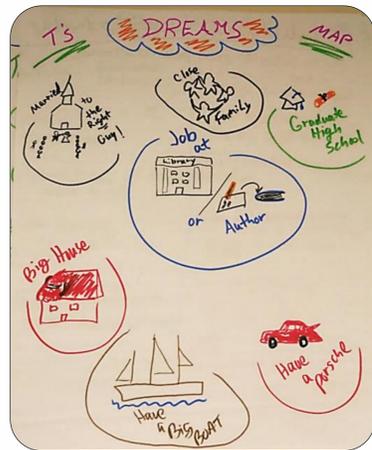
Final Products:

- IRB addendum to include focus groups and parent interviews for students post-completion of the RCT.
- A set of interview and focus group questions.
- Outreach materials to coordinate with the RENEW team, school, parents, and students involved.

Focus Group Questions:

"To what extent do you feel you've been able to overcome or address challenges over the past year?"

"What new resources or supports have you discovered over the past couple years?"

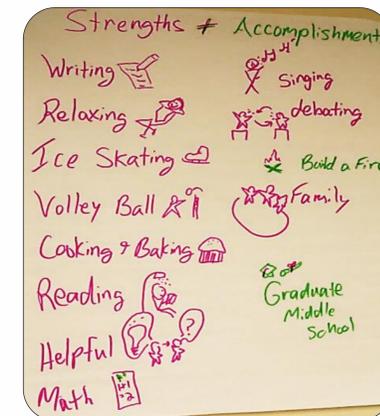


Project Activities:

- To strengthen current quantitative research, brainstormed gathering of students and parents perspectives.
- Collaborated with the UNH IRB, RENEW research team and Somersworth High School to implement focus groups and parent interviews.
- Interviews and two student focus groups are planned to occur in April (one for the RENEW group and one for the traditional supports group).
- Code via grounded theory to synthesize student experiences.
- Dissemination to RENEW teams.

Research Aims:

- Learn about the experiences of youth in the RENEW group and comparison group and their perspectives regarding the supports they received.*
- Examine how the randomization process, data collection, and other activities required by the study are perceived by youth participants and their families and how this impacted their participation.*
- Explore what supports youth perceived as helpful to their success in school, home and community and what was not helpful. Identify how youth define supports.*



Background:

- RENEW (Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural Supports, Education and Work) is a nation-wide intervention that provides services for students with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD) in their transition years (14-26 years).
- RENEW provides youth with Person Centered Planning using graphic facilitation, personalized goal setting, and an individualized circle of supports that work as a team driven by the youth.
- The University of Vermont and the Institution for Educational Sciences are exploring the efficacy of the RENEW program as compared to traditional supports through a randomized control trial (RCT).
 - Conducted in schools across 4 states
 - Students in the treatment group receive RENEW and those in the control group receive traditional school supports
 - Uses quantitative methods and data

Next Steps:

- Replication of study in other schools with a target population of 250+ students.
- Compare qualitative and quantitative outcomes.
- Use findings for program evaluation and improvement.
- RENEW program research findings will be used to impact the way professionals interact with and support students with EBD.