



Missouri Parents Act – MPACT
www.missouriparentsact.org
800-743-7634

A Symphony of Community Voices: MPACT's Regional Transition Network (RTN) Model

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MPACT's Mission:

Our mission is to empower families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training, and education



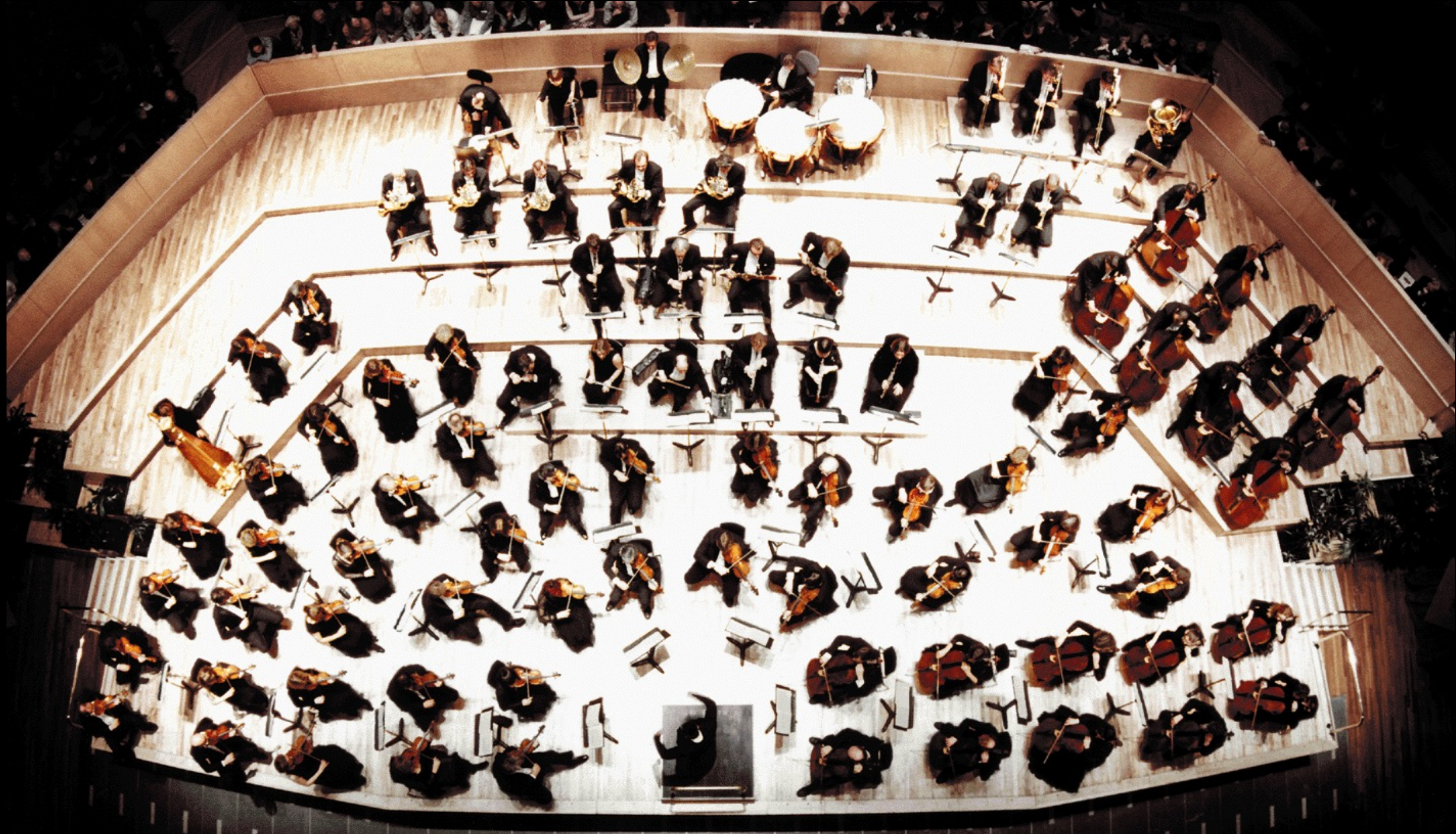
Before we get started, a quick disclaimer:

MPACT is not a legal services agency and cannot provide legal advice or legal representation. Any information contained here is not intended as legal advice and should not be used as a substitution for legal advice.



Agenda

- Interagency Collaboration
- MPACT's Transition Work
- Regional Transition Networks (RTNs)
- RTN Process
- Discussion



Interagency Collaboration

What is interagency collaboration?

- Definition
 - “A clear, purposeful, and carefully designed process that promotes cross-agency, cross-program, and cross-disciplinary collaborative efforts leading to tangible transition outcomes for youth.”
- Characteristics
 - Shared vision and mission
 - Identify members, roles and responsibilities, terms of service, replacement procedures
 - Conduct resource mapping
 - Regular meetings for planning, developing, and measuring progress
 - Method for including and communicating among students, families, community members, and agencies in all aspects of transition process

(Rowe et al., 2015, p. 122)

Evidence for Interagency Collaboration

- A potential or promising predictor of post-high school success (Mazzotti et al., 2021; Test et al., 2009)
- More agency supports → higher rate of postsecondary work/education (Bullis et al., 1995)
- Better interagency council features → better postsecondary education (Repetto et al., 2002)
- CIRCLES, a school-based intervention featuring coordination among community, school, and IEP teams f<https://circles.charlotte.edu/> (Flowers et al., 2018)

MPACT's Transition Work

MPACT's History

- MPACT (Missouri Parents Act) has been Missouri's parent training and information center (PTI) since 1988
 - Serving families of children, youth, and young adults from birth to 26
 - Transition-focused training for parents and youth
 - 30-40 transition workshops per year
 - About 800 participants (youth, families, professionals)
 - Individual assistance for parents
 - More than 300 education meetings (IEPs, etc.) per year
 - More than 1500 consultations and meeting preps (for IEPs, etc.) per year

MPACT's STELLAR Project



- Beginning in 2009, the STELLAR (Supporting Transition to Engaged Lives by Linking Agency Resources) project has focused on youth transition:
 - Regional transition networks (RTNs) throughout the state bringing youth, agency staff, and educators together for transition events
 - Parent- and youth-focused trainings
 - Individual transition support for families
 - Youth and young adult leadership programming
 - Partially funded by RSA (Rehabilitation Services Administration)

Regional Transition Networks (RTNs)

Regional Transition Networks (RTN)

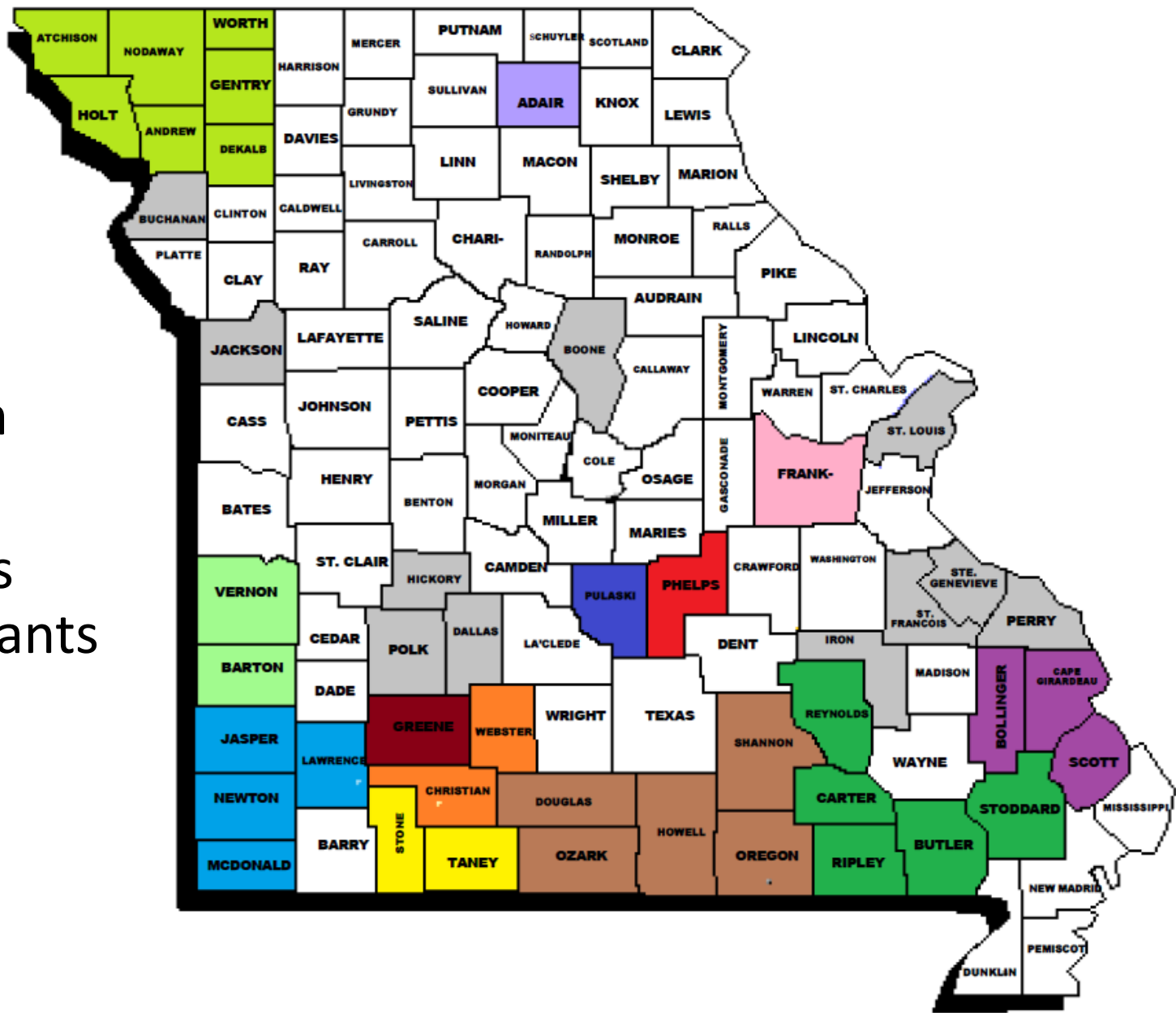
Varied community stakeholders working collaboratively to address local transition needs, build youth and young adult transition capacity, connect youth and families to services, and improve postsecondary outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities.

Regional Transition Networks (RTN)

- Who?
 - varied community stakeholders
- What?
 - work collaboratively to address local transition needs
- Why?
 - build youth and young adult capacity,
 - connect youth and families to services, and
 - improve postsecondary outcomes for youth and young adults with disabilities

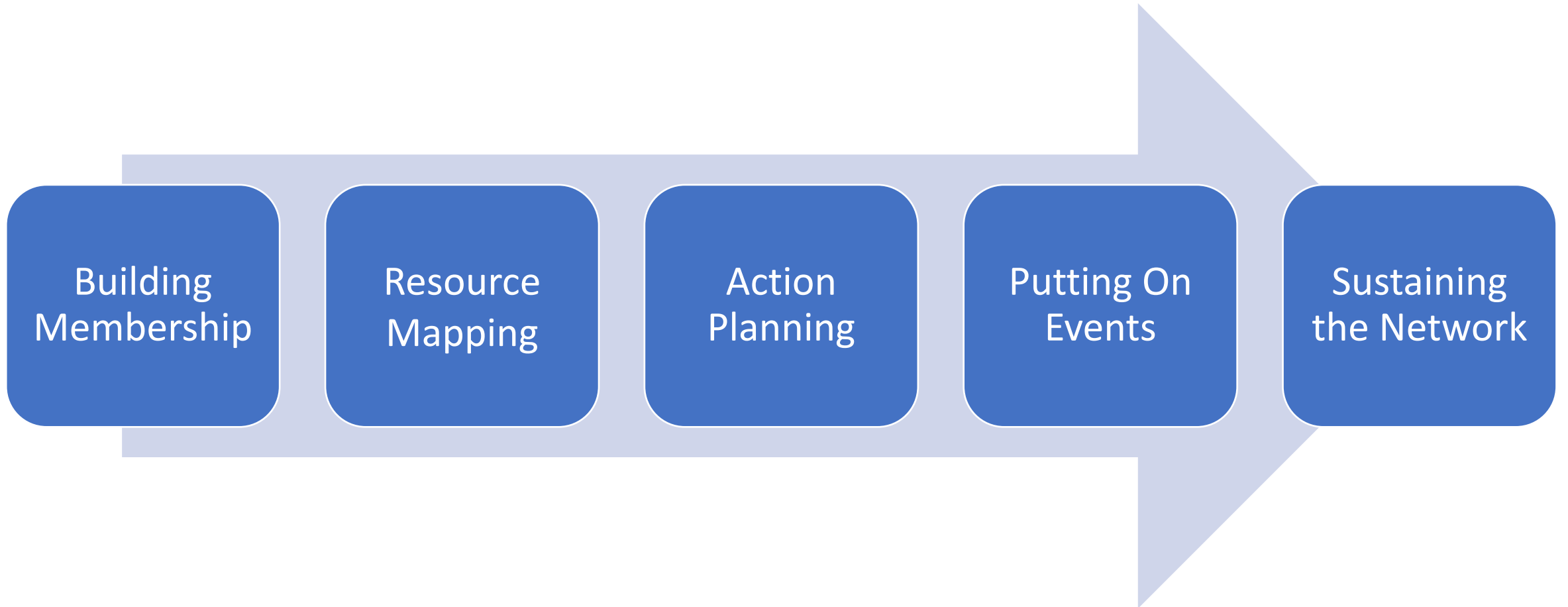
RTN Annual Reach

- 13 active RTNs
- 6 in development
- About 80 RTN meetings each year
- About 10 major youth events each year with 1100 participants
 - 750 youth
 - 100 family members,
 - 250 professionals



RTN Process

RTN Process



Typical Members of RTNs

Educators/Local
School Personnel

VR Counselors

Pre-ETS Specialists

Centers for
Independent Living
(CILs) staff

Department of
Mental Health
(DMH) Regional
Office staff

Youth/Young
Adults

Families

Employers

MPACT Staff

Other agency staff
or community
members

What Is Resource Mapping?

- Scanning the community to
 - identify available resources,
 - identify gaps, and
 - promote partnerships to enhance each other's assets.
- The purpose of resource mapping is to identify and align community resources to maximize youth employment opportunities.



Why Resource Mapping?

NO ONE AGENCY/BUSINESS HAS ALL THE CAPITAL.

COLLABORATION YIELDS BETTER RESULTS.

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE REAL CHANGE AND REACH OUR GOAL(S).

INFORMATION SHARING.

Four Steps to Resource Mapping



Step 1 - Pre-mapping

- Identify key stakeholders
- Define your vision and goals
- Establish a group who will do the mapping

Step 2 - Mapping

- Use the vision and goals to guide your efforts
- Select one goal or high priority
- Do the resources assist in meeting your goals?

Step 3 - Taking Action

- Decide on steps to address goal or priority
- Set time frames
- Decide responsibilities

Step 4 - Maintaining and Evaluating Mapping Efforts

- Celebrate successes
- Update maps regularly
- Measure satisfaction and outcomes
- Make adjustments

Documenting RTN Efforts



RTN Info

Members, Event Flyers,
Meeting Minutes,
Budgets, Attendance
Sheets



Action Plans

Activity Steps,
Responsibilities,
Resources, Due Dates,



Event Tracker

Type of Event, Date,
Funding, Theme,
Location



RTN Evaluation

Youth Show of Hands,
Parent/Staff Workshop
and Event Survey

RTN Events

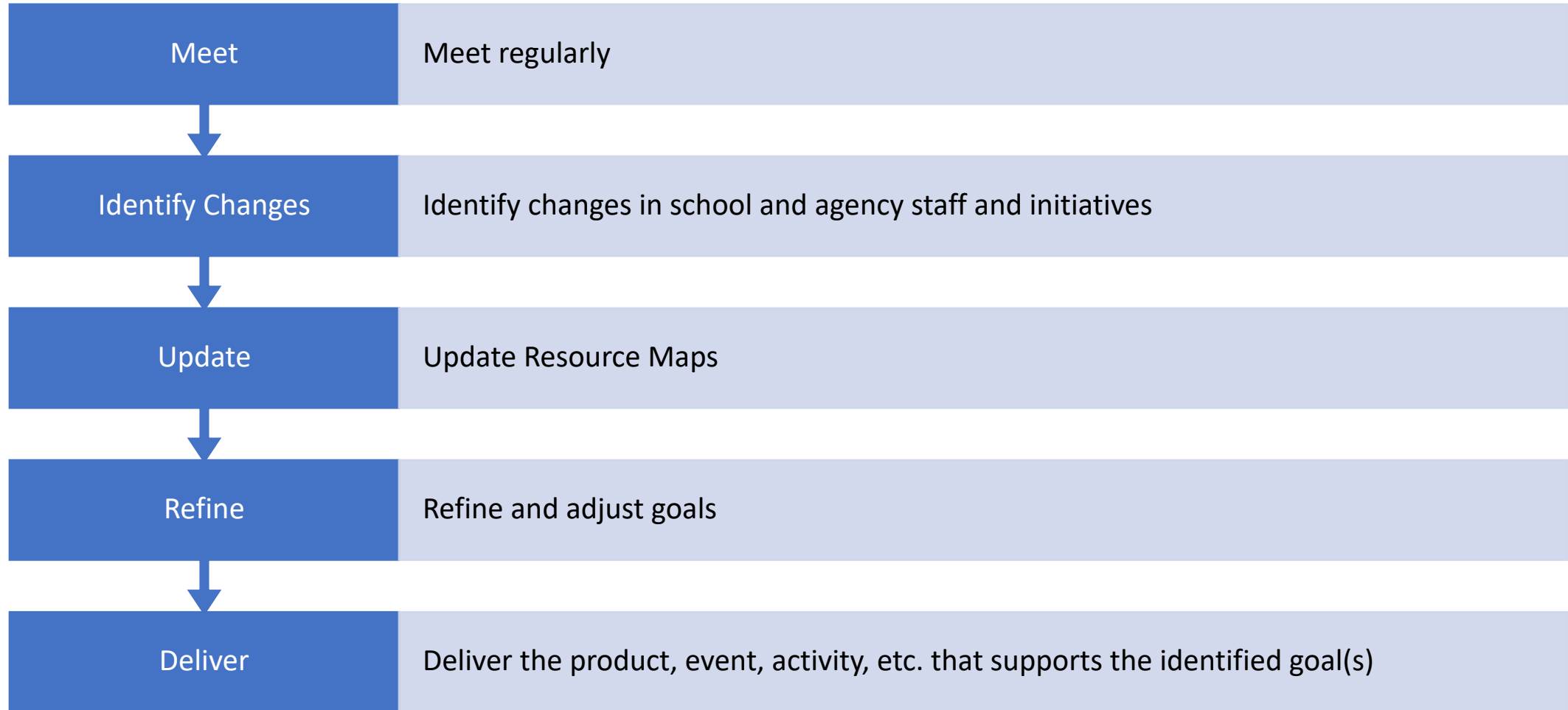
- Youth Summits
- Transition Skills Days
- Reverse Job Fairs
- Employment Expos



Youth Feedback: What was helpful about the RTN event?

- “The people that are there to help you move to adult life.”
- “That I got to learn about different jobs.”
- “How many options/opportunities there was.”
- “I liked learning about what college to go to.”
- “The keynote speaker talked about everything that would be hard to talk about.”

How to sustain an existing RTN



MyVoice (Missouri Youth Voice on Individual & Collective Education)

- MPACT's youth and young adult leadership council
- Presented at Missouri's Transition Training Institute (TTI) in June 2024
- Planning to increase involvement in RTNs



Discussion

Wrapping Up

- RTNs are a powerful structure for creating and sustaining interagency collaboration.
- What structures does your state have for interagency collaboration?



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Parents and
Professionals



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSSJ7W9>

Thank you!

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