

## Community Voices

### Needs and Gaps report October 2025

1. Need more Respite options/providers
2. Need more Youth Mentors
3. Staff training
  - a. Staff have increased knowledge about available services and resources for youth/family, especially the “point of contact” staff such as case managers.
  - b. New staff have the resource information they need to help parents- Some ideas- attend United Way resource event and other resource events, seasoned workers pass information on to new workers. Portal for new staff.
4. Case managers and counselors better coordinating services for children and families.
5. More accessible/available MCAT/Brain mapping assessments that help parents/schools/providers better understand how to help a youth with significant needs.
6. Better transitions for children as they grow through childhood and especially into adulthood.

Transitions can also be sharing of information from one system to another

  - a. Transfer of information from child to adult systems (assessments, services, medication, diagnosis, etc.). This information needs to be more easily available to adult systems, especially adult court.
  - b. Information to help parents know what they need to do or what they need to know to prepare for life as a parent of an adult with special needs.
  - c. If a child moves from one worker to another, better transition to the new worker and/or reduce changing from one worker to another whenever possible.
7. More opportunities to get youth input and involvement.
8. More support for parents/caregivers
  - a. parent peer support groups
  - b. A roadmap for parents and caregivers to learn where to go for help if their child is struggling along the “road” as their child grows from birth to adulthood
  - c. Portal for parents that has resource information that lets parents/caregivers know what is available.