Activity 3: Related Services Decision-Making Scenarios

Purpose: To provide opportunities for workshop participants to use the “Related Services Checklist” to assist in making decisions about the need for proposed related services.

Step 1: Form groups consisting of 4 or 5 participants. The group facilitator reviews Step 2 and provides examples. (5 minutes)

Step 2: One group member at a time takes a turn identifying a student (no names to maintain confidentiality) who either has a specific related service or where one has been proposed. Briefly describe the student’s characteristics and educational program to the group. Using the “Related Services Checklist,” as a group, respond to the questions by:
   a. Listing the proposed related service
   b. Clarifying whether the service is educationally relevant
   c. Clarifying the purpose of the proposed service
   d. Clarifying whether the service is educationally necessary

   For each question give group members an opportunity to ask clarifying questions if necessary to get a better understanding of the situation. For example, what information is needed, but not available, to make an informed decision.

Step 3: As group be prepared to explain why the proposed related service does or does not meet the criteria for educational relevance and necessity.

Step 4: List any points or questions that your discussion raises.

Step 5: Repeat Steps 2 - 4 with a different group member offering a proposed related service. (40 minutes for Steps 2-5)

Step 5: Reconvene as a large group and ask representatives of the small groups to share their main discussion points and questions. (15 minutes)