

**The National Community of Practice on Transition
Community Meeting
February 6-7, 2006**

‘Critical Friends’ Debrief

Critical Friends:

- Provide another ‘lens’ through which to examine issues and plans
- Is an advocate for the success of the work
- Understands that ‘critical’ nature of the process applies to the exercise of careful judgment and sensitivity
- Listen more than speak
- Challenge the partner to be reflective...do not pronounce judgment!
- Respect the confidentiality of the sharing
- Interact in ways that build trust

In this session...three state teams and their ‘critical friends’ will debrief together...

Each state will present a brief summary of where it has been in its assessment of community building and its focus on outcomes (*using the results of the Community Assessment document and the State Meeting Form*)

Time: 10 -15 minutes

A critical friend might focus holistically on the report, including

- Kinds of support the state needs given its stage in creating change
- Kind of support the state might need from national organizations and TA Centers
- Kind of support the state might need from other states

Or a critical friend might focus on a particular part of the report, including:

- The State teams thoughts on youth role
- The State teams thoughts on involving families from diverse backgrounds
- Whether the community has the support from leadership to implement the plan
- Whether the state community has good connections across the state and local levels
- Whether the state community has good public communication

Time: 10-15 minutes