







AYLF October 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

On The Call:

Kara White (VA) kara.white@vbpd.virginia.gov, Dawn Evans (MO) dawn.evans@oa.mo.gov, Jenifer Randle (OK) jenifer.randle@okdhs.org, LaCandice McCray (CA) LaCandice.McCray@dor.ca.gov, Kathi Young (WV) Kathi.young@wvsilc.org, Sierra Royster (NC) sierra.royster@alliancecil.org, Erin McAloon (IN) erin@inautism.org, Leonard Boyle (AR) leonard.boyle@arkansas.gov, Cindy Kirschman (SD) Cindy.Kirschman@state.sd.us

-  **Opening Round:** Introductions sharing name, state, and favorite fall food. Welcome Leonard Boyle from Arkansas and Cindy Kirschman from South Dakota.
-  **Approval of August 15 Meeting Minutes:** Approved. No corrections made. Leonard Boyle requested a copy of the minutes emailed to him.
-  **Strategic Planning Survey:** LaCandice explained the purpose of the survey was an opportunity to receive feedback from members to determine interests of where we are going with AYLF strategic planning. LaCandice shared the members of the executive committee and discussion regarding a 5 year draft that was sent to LaCandice from Montana. The survey link was presented on the blackboard. Cindy requested a link to the survey. Dawn will email her the link. A brief discussion of topics on survey includes 501(3)c and a definition of “social welfare”. Is YLF simply for social welfare? Would a 5013c limit any advocating or political activities that AYLF may want to be involved in? Sierra shared that it would be ok as long as we are focused on educating citizens on how to advocate versus actually lobbying. Jen from OK emphasized that there is a lot of responsibility in becoming a 501(3)c but the survey is just a beginning to see if there is an interest to pursue further research.
-  **Treasurer Report:** No report
-  **AYLF / APRIL Presentation:**
 - October 23 – 29 will be the APRIL conference and AYLF is supporting members to attend. Dawn (MO), LaCandice (CA), June (MT), Jen (OK), Carrie (KS), Mike (MT) will be attending. LaCandice shared summary of presentation and shared slides using blackboard. Jen and LaCandice will be attending the youth conference. Jen commented she has heard there will be over 65 youth in attendance.
-  **Monthly Topic: Employment of Youth with Disabilities. A discussion of employment of youth with disabilities including YLF alumni in their state.**
 - ODEP poster “Because We are Equal to the Task” displayed on the blackboard screen.
 - Sierra (NC) started Disability Mentoring Day. Enable America and AAPD also participate. Sierra has a vision of sending out mass emails to an alumni AYLF list

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serve. CA used alumni to update alumni contact lists. FB for alumni has been helpful. SD and MO also use facebook.

- Leonard (AR) DMD mentoring program which has turned into a year round program and businesses have been very receptive. Leonard has presented to schools and colleges about participating in the DMD. Networking with disability services offices of colleges, public school administration, and attending career fairs have been successful methods of recruiting and getting program participation. Leonard recruits YLF Alumni and students with disabilities to attend career fairs with him.
- Cindy (SD) Project Skills funded by SD dept of rehabilitation services. If students met eligibility criteria, beginning at age 16, students can work off campus earning minimum wage receiving a paycheck every two weeks. Schools are responsible for documenting work and students receive credits towards graduation. Project Search has also been implemented in SD. LaCandice questioned if similar to ROP programs (regional occupation program).
- ROP in CA allows students to receive paychecks and credits for off campus jobs.
- MO shared social media (FB Alumni Page) great to share information with youth but difficult getting youth to comment. Shared ipad use at YLF to encourage teamwork, presentation skills, and using technology for accommodations. Teams present to parents, sponsors, and YLF participants who they are, what they learned, and how they will use their skills in their community. Missouri Assisted Technology provides ipads and other assistive technology (if available) at no cost. Ipads are also used for a Scavenger Hunt to explore resources and supports on campus, practice team work, and promote social skills. Change for next year is a plan to use alumni to staff a News Media Team. This team will have an experienced adult leader facilitating and coaching team about purpose of media, accuracy, and documentation. This team will be responsible for social media, newsletters, photos, and video.
- Erin (IN) VR and internship program. Shared software programs matching skills with employment is currently geared towards autism.
- Jen (OK) DD Council “Tec Now” program for hs students to teach employment skills. 30 high schools statewide participate in this program. Currently legislation in OK are rethinking special education services and hope to find a way for equal opportunities and supports for all students with disabilities no matter where they live in their state. Employment First Committee and Transition Council are also implemented. Jen expressed a concern that youth with disabilities are not being utilized in the transition planning process. Ijob program provides job training.

Actions Requested:

- Dawn will send minutes to Leonard Boyle.
- Dawn will email out a reminder to complete survey by November 8 to all members.
- Sierra requested information on MO Scavenger Hunt. Dawn will send to her.

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Next Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2013 - 2:00pm Eastern, Guest Speaker is Betsy Valnes to share what NYLN is doing and current potential for collaboration with AYLF.



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