

## *AYLF November 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes*

### **On The Call:**

Dawn Evans (MO), Jenifer Randle (OK), LaCandice McCray (CA), Sierra Royster (NC), Cindy Kirschman (SD), Rachel Stewart (CA), Carrie Greenwood (KS), Dan Rounds (SD)

- ✍ **Welcome and Purpose of Meeting:** Discuss and share strategic planning survey results. To save on time constraints – typical meeting structure was not implemented.
- ✍ **Opening Conversation:** Welcome Cassandra Lokker from Wisconsin – first time joining phone call. Rachel Stewart from CA will be taking lead role in planning CA YLF.
- ✍ **Blackboard Access Provided:** Carrie and Rachel were able to access blackboard. Dawn and Cindy were unable to access due to security clearance.
- ✍ **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 began meeting discussion restating purpose of meeting was to discuss and share thoughts regarding the planning survey. To avoid bias results LaCandice did not complete the survey. Participants were asked to share top 3 thoughts, observations, or comments of the survey.
  - **Carrie from KS:** Pleased with the overall participation and that the results all shared a common vision and purpose for participating in AYLF – notably sharing ideas and networking to improve each states program. Carrie was happy to see that the states are following the California model.
  - **Dawn from MO:** Agrees that gathering ideas and networking is a key component of AYLF. Dawn shared concerns that have been shared with her from other AYLF members is that they are not getting enough of the disability history component addressed in their curriculum.
  - **Cassie from WI:** Once a delegate, now the director of the YLF agrees with the value of collaboration and sharing ideas. Has expectations that AYLF will provide her with ideas.
  - **Cindy from SD:** Pleased to see CA Model is for the most part being followed, but was very surprised to see some states accept students over the age of 21. .
  - **Rachel from CA:** No need to reinvent the wheel, networking and sharing ideas with other state programs is a valuable part of AYLF. Would like to have had more clarification regarding the relationships of the different organizations. Questions regarding pros and cons of building such relationships and partnerships with the organizations. Agrees that the AYLF mission statement should be revisited.
  - **Jen Randle from OK:** Jen commented on the number of states that actually completed the survey. Survey does not reflect opinions from majority of the members. Suggested considering a more diverse list of potential organizations. Example shared: Jen works for DD Council which focuses on Developmental Disability but they still support other disabilities as in taking all disabilities for YLF as a sponsor of program and work with centers for independent living. Concerned

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that there are some very good organizations that may be overlooked because they focus on a specific disability.

#### **LaCandice shared summary of Executive Committee Observations:**

- Suggestion before strategic planning changes AYLF may want to reevaluate and consider revising our mission statement.
- Observation of the differentiation of ages of the youth population and would like to have further conversation to understand why age choices.
- Some inconsistency in understanding the purpose of AYLF – which connects to the ages, diversity of disabilities, and partnering of agencies and organizations.

#### **Group Discussion**

- A definition of what we mean when using relationship terms and how this would look between AYLF and other organizations. There was an obvious discrepancy in how these questions were interpreted when completing the survey.
- LaCandice clarified how the 4 organizations were included into the survey. June from Montana shared the history of AYLF with LaCandace. ODEP initially supported AYLF by funding monthly conference calls. When ODEP funding was ended the association started meeting independently more informally. The Institute of Educational Leadership started providing funding for monthly calls and supported AYLF. The Executive Director of NYLN, Betsy Valnes was a part of the original AYLF group. The National Governor's Committees because many states are coordinated by Governors Committees. The National DD Council because they sponsor and coordinate some state YLF programs.
- Carrie agrees that all organizations could be good partnerships – question is how formal or informal do we want those relationships?

#### **Revisit the Mission Statement**

- LaCandice feels that the first step before considering partnerships or any future strategic planning we need to determine our mission which will help determine future planning.
- After some suggestions and committee ideas, LaCandice reiterated the first step is to develop a mission statement. Agreement by Cindy and Rachel to revisit the mission statement.
- LaCandice suggested that participants send proposed language for a mission statement for exec committee to create a draft to present for approval. Another option was addressed that instead of the executive committee drafting maybe designate a subcommittee to complete a draft to present for discussion and approval. LaCandice emphasized everyone's participation is respected and considered. Open for committee. Dawn will send an email asking for interests of participation on subcommittee to draft AYLF mission statement.

#### **Discussion of understanding CA Model and how it is being replicated nationally.**

- **Results of states ranking priorities of tenets:**
  1. Most states are inviting all disabilities.
  2. Equal number of male/female.
  3. Most states reflecting culture and diversity in region

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4. Most states asking staff to understand and support philosophy of self determination
  5. Overall training curriculum is reflective of the variety of disabilities present in the program.
  6. Every delegate must have a disability and demonstrate potential to be a leader. (3 states implemented but modified)
  7. At least 50% of role models and presenters have a disability
  8. All staff and volunteers understand and embrace disability history and culture
  9. More than 50% of volunteer staff has a disability.
- **Cindy – SD:** Due to insufficient time, incorporating disability history and legislative issues, SD holds an additional event “reunion at the capitol” where they focus on disability history and the government process. YLF in June and reunion is held in November.
  - **Jen – OK:** Regarding hiring 50% staff with disabilities. OK hires S.E. Teachers to not only educate the students but in hopes to provide a learning opportunity for the teachers to take back to their classrooms after YLF. OK also recruits Psychology Graduate students as YLF staff. The hours they work at the YLF count as internship credits towards their degrees.
  - **Carrie – KS:** CIL staff, transition coordinators, college students provide great staff opportunities. They definitely have the 50% ratio but do have staff without disabilities as well.
  - **Rachel – CA:** CA started out with about 50% but has transitioned to now about 90% whom are alumni and a total of 95% staff and alumni that have disabilities.

#### **Age Discussion:**

- Discussion from a comment on survey of possibly starting a similar program for 22 – 30 year old participants.
- **Rachel - CA:** expressed concerns for students over 25 being integrated in a program with younger students. Agrees older youth need these skills but maybe consider a separate program with adapted curriculum.
- **Carrie – KS:** was surprised that 4 states said they accepted freshman and sophomores. Concerned that freshmen are just getting used to high school and would have difficulty focusing on transition.
- **Dawn – MO:** Commented that Missouri does occasionally accept freshman and sophomores. Their age range is 16 – 21. MO is realizing the importance of beginning addressing transition needs at younger ages. Interviews and the application process can help determine maturity and readiness of delegate participation.

 **LaCandice: Summary and conclusion with last chance for comments.** No comments made

 **Meeting adjourned at 2pm.**

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 **Actions Requested:**

- Dawn will send email asking for interests in participation on committee to draft mission statement.
- Dawn will send a follow up email on next meeting date. Date originally scheduled December 19. LaCandice is not available. Proposed holding week before or cancelling December and hold meeting in January.

**\*\*\* after receiving follow up emails:**

**Next meeting will be January 16.**



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