

AYLF
August 21, 2014
Meeting Minutes 1:00 pm – 2:00pm CST

Introductions

Attending:

Carrie Greenwood (KS)
Cassandra Lokker (WI)
Chris Bailey (IN)
Donna Foster (OH)
Dawn Evans (MO)
Jenifer Randle (OK)
Kathi Young (WV)
Katie Carroll (MD)
Larry Wanger (AZ)
Rachel Stewart (CA)
Seneca Sharp (WI)
Sierra Royster (NC)
Sukie Glick (GA)

Dawn began by welcoming everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on conducting successful Youth Leadership Forums in their respective states.

Website / Newsletter:

Dawn noted that the current web site needs to be updated. The directory has had some changes and will be sent out once changes are final. The web site needs to have the listing of YLF chapters updated. Dawn asked that everyone review the directory currently posted on the web site and forward any corrections to her via email so things can be updated.

Dawn also mentioned she has emailed the 2012 AYLF newsletter and that it would be great to do a similar issue once again. She requested that each state send a photo and article for a newsletter highlighting 2014 forums. She also requested that members send 4 or 5 photos with captions to Kara and Dawn to be shared on the web site as well.

Treasurer Update – Jen Randle:

Dawn turned the meeting over to the treasurer, Jennifer for a brief update. Currently, AYLF has \$4,270.17 in the account.

Dawn mentioned that AYLF's past secretary has moved on to other responsibilities. Therefore, AYLF is currently looking for a new secretary. This individual would take notes during meetings and assist with keeping the directory up to date.

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YLF Successes and Challenges:

Next, Dawn asked individuals on the call to provide reports on their respective YLF events. Specifically, she asked that participants on the call share successes and highlights and that we would discuss challenges later in the call.

Donna (OH): this was her 6th YLF. They added a day to the YLF; delegates arrived on Sunday and departed on Thursday. Also, they have held a mentoring dinner; includes a keynote speaker and formal presentations of mentors and mentees. They changed it this year and had career focused tables with mentors at each table and youth could choose where to go. 20 minutes at each table and then they moved on to another.

Kathi: They did not hold a closing banquet. They have done it previously but decided the expense is too great when inviting parents and others. They held a formal graduation ceremony instead. She reported that their forum is transitioning to a new director but she will remain involved.

Chris (IN): He reported that Indiana had 23 delegates attend the event. They visited the state capitol and met with the governor. A group called Indi-prov participated in leading an activity to learn social and other skills that would be very helpful for them in the future.

Carrie (KS): They had 19 delegates attend. They held a mentor luncheon that was very successful and a great keynote speaker. The best highlight was that 5 or 6 alumni came back as volunteers for the event this year. They showed outstanding leadership skills during the week.

Sierra (NC): They had speakers from Montana participate in their YLF this year, outstanding staff and observed outstanding growth in the delegates. The youth started a Facebook group and are extremely interactive of one another.

Jenifer (OK): Oklahoma had 21 delegates out of 25 applicants attend. They had 4 graduates attend as volunteers as well. They had a variety of funding including state VR, P&A, NAMI, private donations and other organizations. Delegates who attended also received recognition from state representatives.

Dawn (MO): Missouri had 27 applications and 19 attended due to making things more competitive. One thing that was a huge success was a community service project. They planned it previous to the event and worked on it during the event. Delegates were asked to gather items and bring to the forum so kits could be put together. 100 kits ended up going out to foster kids across the state.

Larry (AZ): Arizona had great success with their first YLF. 23 youth applied and 21 attended. Great staff and volunteers. Outstanding program though the schedule was very intense and a day will be added to the forum to accommodate this in 2015.

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Everyone on the call then shared some challenges they had with their YLF this year.

Donna (OH): funding is probably the greatest issue. Funds used to come from state VR but that has been reduced to only fund current consumers. That meant they had to seek donations for others to participate. They are considering a nonprofit but this is in discussion. Donna asked how much money a group or association could have on hand if they were not an approved 501c3 organization; is there a limit. It was suggested that, due to time constraints, that Donna email this question to everyone for discussion purposes.

Kathi: they had some logistical issues on the day they went to the capitol. They tried to line-up individual appointments so delegates could meet with their representative. Scheduling was difficult. Also an issue between roommates because of communications related to disability.

Chris (OH): some rooming issues and logistical issues with youth being on several different floors. Presented difficulties keeping track of everyone. Mentor luncheon was difficult as well due to people not sitting with their mentor.

Carrie (KS): Kansas had challenges with recruitment and numbers have been low. They are trying to figure out how to improve this. Right now they are planning for more presentations in schools and asking alumni to be more involved. They will ask select alumni to give presentations in a local school.

Chris noted that Indiana has put together a video featuring testimony from attendees and that something like this can be powerful for recruitment and fund raising.

Sierra (NC): Mentioned funding but also stressed helping staff to understand what is needed and helping them better understand their role. They had some staff that were very much in need of specific direction on where and how to fill needs. Also, interest in knowing how accommodations are done in different states. Again, it was suggested that she send an email to everyone to spark discussion because of time constraints.

Rachael (CA): She provided a highlight on the California YLF and a challenge. One highlight was an outstanding orientation conducted by one of their alumni who now works for NCIL. The training was outstanding. Also, they previously have had small groups (teams during the week) go together to meet with legislators. This year they had youth meet with representatives from their specific area and included someone from the local CIL serving that area. Challenges included funding. They were able to get various departments within the state to contribute funds to support YLF. They also helped to fund a coordinator position.

Jenifer (OK): She sees challenges with engaging students in advocacy oriented activities after the forum is over. They are eager to have social gatherings but it is difficult to get them to attend conferences and or to get them to advocate on an issue.

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Larry (AZ): The schedule was very full and busy. This made it difficult on some delegates. We are planning on extending our YLF by adding another day in 2015. Also, having more time to plan will be very helpful.

Katie (MD): Funding was a challenge. However, one of the highlights related to having a number of youth with disabilities that required a lot of support. It was great to see them support one another. She noted one of their challenges was the schedule and need to give more time for activities and breaks in between.

Research Opportunities:

Dr. Joan Kester – Did not attend today. Dawn will follow up with her.

Seneca provided an update on a NIDRR grant application. UNC and George Washington University are applying for this grant and are the main partners. However, we are not clear what the role of AYLF might be. We know they are seeking to hear from youth with disabilities and it is hoped that we could provide alumni to participate. It was agreed that Dawn would follow up and the Executive Committee would meet with her and then report back to everyone.

Other Business:

Donna asked a question about how YLFs are including personal care attendant and nursing services as part of their events. Specifically how they hire them, insurance issues and liability. Larry noted that Arizona did not have a nurse/PCA on site this year but we did have conversations with our insurance provider to be sure things were in order. Rachael from California noted they brought in these services by approaching a company that provides services in their area. All insurance and liability issues then are with the company they contracted with.

Dawn thanked everyone for participating and noted the next meeting would be on September 18th. The meeting will focus on alumni follow-up. She also reminded everyone that we need a secretary and invited interested candidates to email her.

Submitted by Larry Wanger, Arizona YLF.

Actions:

- Each state is requested to send a YLF article with photo for newsletter by October 1 to Kara and copy Dawn.
- Each state is requested to send 4 to 5 photos from 2014 YLF to add to Webpage. Helpful if they are captioned. Send to Kara / copy Dawn by October 1.
- Each state will check website to make sure their chapter contact information is correct. Also if there is anything else that needs to be added or corrected send to Kara / copy Dawn.

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