



**On The Call:**

Katie Carroll (MD), Kara White (VA), Dawn Evans (MO), Anthony LaCava (FL), Cassandra Lokker (WI), Melissa Santora (AZ), Sierra Royster (NC), Whitney Harris (FL), Carrie Greenwood (KS), Danny Gounder (CA), Catherine Baird (CA), Anna (CA), Sara Triano (CA), Donna Foster (OH)

Minutes recorded by Dawn Evans

-  **Opening / Introduction:** Dawn welcomed everyone and noted that one objective of the meeting was to determine meeting topics to be addressed.
- Members shared where they were at with current YLF planning - a positive and a challenge.
- Wisconsin will be holding a board retreat and are in the process of training a new director.
  - Kansas and several other states reported that they are finding the recruitment process increasingly challenging.
  - Maryland is planning a pre-ylf event as a meet and greet for new delegates accepted.
  - Arizona eager to hold their second YLF. Just beginning the planning and preparing applications to go out.
  - Arizona is really emphasizing the employment piece. MO extended a day to their program to highlight the career / education curriculum.
  - Ohio mentioned funding is a challenge with other states agreeing. Ohio will be implementing a community service project and was asking for other states input.
  - Florida does service projects at their YLF. Anthony shared creating care packs for schools and art projects to deliver to nursing home residents were a couple of examples they have done in the past.
  - California are a little behind schedule and are experience staff changes. Sara T. shared about in 2016 California will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of YLF and the possibility of using this opportunity to bring together AYLF in person for training and experiencing the CA YLF. Possibility of bringing youth alumni representatives from other states. A planning committee will be formed to make progress on this idea. Seneca is currently looking at a potential grant that may help with this goal.

 **Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** Were not discussed.

 **Financials:** Jen was not available due to family emergency. Via email Jen shared that 1 payment to website manager was made of \$44.40. Estimated balance is \$4205.17.

 **Old Business:**

- **A Revision of the Mission Statement** was presented and unanimously approved. The new Mission Statement reads, “**The purpose of the Association of Youth Leadership Forums (AYLF) is to improve outcomes throughout the United States and its territories related to employment, advocacy, leadership, and community participation for transition-age youth**

*It is the purpose of this Association to improve employment and independent living outcomes for youth with disabilities transitioning from high school by promoting leadership throughout the United States and its territories, the replication of the California Model Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities.*

with disabilities, by facilitating interstate collaboration and technical assistance to Youth Leadership Forums (YLF) replicating the California-Model of YLF.”

- **Reviewing AYLF Bylaws and YLF Tennets:** The executive Committee and CA representatives are working in collaboration to review and revise the current Bylaws and more specifically Tennets. Once the revisions are agreed on with the committee, they will be shared with AYLF members for approval.
- ✍ **2015 Monthly Topics:** A list of past topics and suggested topics was sent out with the agenda to all members. A discussion of the timing of topics at our meetings may not be the best. Examples – selecting speakers after the majority of YLF’s have already finalized speakers. Dawn requested to those who don’t mind sending her a timeline of the planning process, will be considered when planning topics. She will use information from the meeting today and past information to put together an agenda of topics for the coming year.
- ✍ **Open Discussion:** Dawn opened the floor to an open discussion.
  - More discussion and interests expressed in the timing and need for AYLF to have an in person training / planning event. It was agreed that a committee would be formed to discuss possibilities of a training and celebration in California during the California Youth Leadership Forum 2016. All members on the phone agreed that they could schedule their programs around the California dates which will be the last week in July.
  - An in depth discussion on ages of participants. Missouri had a question if they should make exceptions for applicants who have already graduated. Some states keep their ages very narrow and others have a larger age range. California suggestion to Missouri is to keep their current criteria but they included a clause that states exceptions can be made.
  - A discussion of possibly forming 2 YLFs – High School / Post Secondary program. Catherine Baird mentioned that Puerto Rico does this. Dawn had heard but needed to confirm that Iowa also has something similar.
  - Dawn suggested that as we are planning and questions/ideas arise to send an email to the AYLF distribution list and hopefully a productive email discussion will help us all.
- ✍ **Other Business:**
  - We did not get to discuss future nominations much. Seneca has expressed interest in serving as Chair and has some big ambitions for AYLF and an interest in grant writing as well as research of our Alumnus on a national level. The Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary positions will be open for nominations. We will discuss at the February meeting.

✍ **Next Meeting Date:**  
Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm Central Standard Time.

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