

# Association for Youth Leadership Forums

## Meeting Minutes

### January 18, 2018



#### On The Call:

Donna Foster (OH), Alexis Nichols (VA), Zak Ford (CA), Elijah Fagan-Solis (NY), Cameron Thaller (SC), Julia Hartman (SC), Jami Davis (ID), Anthony LaCava (FL)

- **Opening Round:** When is your due date for staff applications?
  - Donna (OH) - February 28, 2018 moved it up a month.
  - Zak (CA) – application not up yet, will be due end of March
  - Julie (SC) –
  - Anthony(FL) – just last week YLF was confirmed for 2018– end of March
  - Cameron (SC) – end of March
  - Jamie (ID- end of March
  - Alexis (VA) doing things differently this year so not sure, YLF dates July 8-12
  - Elijah (NY) – NY received grant to do YLF’s regionally. Held the first one in October in Albany 4 days and 3 nights. It was very well received, delegates wanted it to be longer. It was delegates and the parent/caregiver also went through training. Interdependence was the focus. Will have 3 more YLF’s this year with 30 delegates each.
  
- **Meeting Minutes – postponed till next meeting.**
  
- **Treasurer Report**
  - Skipped till next month. Jen not on call.
  
- **Members will discuss how they choose and train their staff. Guiding questions. When is your training, who is included and what is the format? What is your criteria for selecting staff? Do you have different or extra criteria for alumni?**
  - Zak (CA) - CA put’s emphasis on alumni as volunteer staff. 50% of the staff are alumni. Staff come the day before YLF for training. Training includes reviewing risk management, curriculum, and program elements. Staff must complete the “Youth Protection training” from Sacramento State. Staff complete application and go through interview. After selection, they must complete documents and background check. Background checks include fingerprinting
  - Donna (OH) – Ohio’s staff is about 90 – 95% alumni. Staff complete application, required to do at least 10 hours of community service and/or fill out 3 blue cards to show that they are using leadership skills. Have core “executive team” of long term staff. Junior staff are interviewed. All staff have background checks. Staff come in the night before for training. Training consists of reviewing curriculum, program elements, etc. In the past have had specialized training on autism, crisis management, etc.
  - Alexis (VA) – VA also uses blue cards to track alumni’s leadership activities. Staff arrive the day before for training. Train on program elements, etc. and also person centered services.

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- Anthony (FL) – Require 50 hours of community service for staff. Arrive same day as the delegates, but earlier. Review facilitator’s manual, would like to do more formal training for support staff
- Elijah (NY) – Have regional YLF’s. Youth Power is a peer run organization with 500 or so members throughout the state. Pull staff from that network. Will have 2 or 3 people who attend all YLF’s. Staff attend trainings throughout the year, like CPR, Conflict Resolution, cultural competency, mentoring, disability etiquette, strength based perspectives, tips for conversations. Pair more seasoned individuals with less seasoned. Background checks are required.
- Cameron (SC) – Do not do background check. Staff consists of members/staff from CILS (12 people) and alumni (six), Have a webinar that contains program elements. In the middle of the webinar, it will say send email or do this, so we know person watched the webinar. Would like to improve training around crisis management.
- **If you were to pick one topic that you think every YLF staff training should include, what would it be?**
  - Alexis (VA) – dealing with anxiety, triggers, understanding other disabilities
  - Anthony (FL) – problem solving when to go to “management” or deal with it yourself, disability awareness
  - Cameron (SC) – History of YLF
- **How do states collect data on alumni and keep them engaged throughout the year?**
  - Zak (CA) – would like to survey and get more data on alumni.
  - Anthony (FL) - have alumni association and Facebook. Not really good with tracking data.
  - Donna (OH) – have Facebook. Used to have reunions and summer events when under GCPD, now we do not engage alumni. This year will be 20<sup>th</sup> YLF in Ohio. Trying to organize alumni event.
  - Alexis (VA) – alumni development program with 4 different territories. They usually meeting once a month and do other projects like DD Advocacy Day. – Through DD Council.
  - Elijah (NY) – Youth Power holds data. Send New Year’s cards to try to keep up with addresses. Youth Power hold events thought out the year like Legislative Awareness Day.
- **Closing**
  - The next call will be February 15, 2018. John from CT would like to discuss state funding and reporting requirements next month.

**Meeting time: 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST**

**Minutes recorded by Donna Foster, AYLFC Chair**

**Next Meeting: February 15, 2018**

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