Realizing Rural Relationships: Peer Support for Rural Outreach and Organizing

The Rural Community Living Development Peer Mentoring Team
October 11, 2022
What you can expect today

• Brief introduction to the Rural Community Living Development Peer Mentoring Program

• Focused discussions on three rural outreach and organizing topics
  1. Outreach through new programming
  2. Reaching underserved communities
  3. Building non-traditional relationships

• Wrapping up and how to get involved
The RCLD Peer Mentoring Program

- Rayna Sage
- Lillie Greiman
- The RCLD curriculum and peer mentorship model

**Introduction**

The Rural Community Living Development peer-to-peer mentoring program creates opportunities for CIL staff to learn about and practice rural community outreach and organizing with the support of more experienced CIL staff. The goal is to build and use community resources for addressing the community living needs of rural people with disabilities.
Activity

• What is one word you would use to describe rural outreach?
Outreach through new programming

• Stephanie Deible, Disability Network West Michigan

• Dori Tempio, Able South Carolina
Advocacy Day for Access and Independence
South Carolina Disability Partners in Disaster Coalition
Young Professionals Group

WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE NCYP TO HOST?

- Hikes
- Coffee Breaks
- Trivia/Game Night
- Cooking classes
- Behind-the-scenes at Dogwood Center
- Corn hole/outdoor games
- Volunteering
- Guest speakers/workshops on professional development
- Art Classes
- Kickball game
- Bowling
- Crafting
Reaching underserved communities

• Sequoia Commins, Tri-County Independent Living
• Tessa Hickman, Valley Associates for Independent Living
Your Del Norte Team

Carolyn Webb
Office Manager

Sequoia Commins
Independent Living Skills Specialist

Trish Cottrell
Program Development Specialist

Samantha Nickles
Youth Coordinator
Del Norte and Tribal Adjacent Lands (DNATL)

Tolowa Dee-Ni’ Nation
https://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/

Elk Valley Rancheria
https://elk-valley.com/

Yurok Tribe
https://www.yuroktribe.org/
A Quick Fact

- Del Norte County has 9.7% reported demographic of Native American persons (April 2021)

Our Work is Important!
Coordinating with Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation

Left: Seal of Tolowa Dee-Ni’ Nation
Right: Tolowa Dunes State Park

Authenticity
Respect
Patience
Humility
Community is Everything

Left: Tri-County Independent Living Del Norte Grand Opening

Honoring communities that came before us honors the future as well.
Examples of Collaboration

→ **Sharing Resources**
  Direct advertisement to proper tribal connections. Public facing and agency facing education and cultural priming

→ **Participating in Tabling Events**
  Starting from the Elder Resource Fair

→ **Being Teachable**
Reaching underserved communities
• Tessa Hickman, Valley Associates for Independent Living

Disabled Youth Are More at Risk of Being Incarcerated

The school-to-prison pipeline for children with disabilities is a multi-layered problem.

BY RACHEL ANSPACH
OCTOBER 9, 2017
Building non-traditional relationships

- Hank Bostic, Disability Network Southwest Michigan
- Quinn Durrant, North West Georgia Center for Independent Living
Building non-traditional relationships

- Hank Bostic, Disability Network Southwest Michigan
Building non-traditional relationships Continued

- Quinn Durrant, North West Georgia Center for Independent Living
Main takeaways and open discussion

• Rural outreach is thinking outside the box
• Non-traditional partners outside of disability network
• Bringing people from disability community together with non-disabled people
• Raising awareness that disability impacts us all
• Elevating disability culture and pride, especially with underserved and marginalized communities
How to get involved

• Become a mentee and join us for an in-person meeting in April!
• Problem-solve and strategize with the RCLD team
• Get support to use RCLD resources

• Contact Rayna Sage rayna.sage@umontana.edu or drop your contact in the chat
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