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

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

Examples of Collaboration Reaching underserved communities
• Tessa Hickman, Valley Associates for Independent Living

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

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 nondisabled 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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