Wrap Up: Transcript

00:00:53.000 --> 00:00:59.000
>>BETH: Hello, everyone. Welcome!

00:00:59.000 --> 00:01:03.000
I am Beth Quarles, enabled board member.

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A facilitator of the call today. Thank you for joining us for our virtual

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preconference session 3.

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three. This is a part three series, we hope you have enjoyed

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all three sessions today. Please note that any session

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that is missed, the recording will be added

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to the conference website, so please check that

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back. Session 3,

00:01:33.000 --> 00:01:37.000
three, thank you for joining us or session 3.

00:01:37.000 --> 00:01:45.000
three. Wrapping up, taking home, and sharing.

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peer sharing. I want to mention a few housekeeping items, before we get started.

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First, when you scroll over the screen, a menubar pops up.

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Depending on what device you are on paid you can find
that menubar at the top or at the bottom of the screen.

That is where you will find the closed captioning for today's session.

You can view the captioning by selecting the CC tab on the menu bar. For sign language interpreting,

you can find the interpreters on the screen.

If you would like to change the size of the screen,

if slides are shown, you can select the line in the middle to make the slide or the interpreter larger or smaller.

For Spanish interpretation, please click on the interpretation button in your menubar.

Find the global icon, you can then select Spanish if you want to hear only Spanish.

, select on and need the original.
mute the original. If you have technical issues, please use the chat feature, you can find the word bubble

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in the menu bar. If you would like to turn the chat feature off,

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if you are using a screen reader, you can do that by pressing

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t. For question and answer time, please note the correct question and answer box

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is on the menu bar. Please only submit questions there.

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As they may get lost in the chat.

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To ask a question, or to make comments, you can also select

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that hand option on the menu bar.

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That allows us to know that you have a question.

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For those of you on the phone today, or using keystrokes,

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we ask that you press

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*9 or ALT+Y as in the year on your keypad to raise her hand prayed we will then let you know when you can

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unmute, you can select the unmute option, or

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unmute, you can select the unmute option, or ALT+A as an Apple for using the keystrokes. Remember if you join

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into the conversation, please keep all background noise down.

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As much as possible to allow us to hear you clearly. I would like to turn it over to

00:04:31.000 --> 00:04:38.000
Linda Pogue and Kyle Kleist

00:04:38.000 --> 00:04:42.000
. Thank you.

00:04:42.000 --> 00:04:49.000
>>LINDA: Thank you, Beth.   >>KYLE: Thank you, Beth.

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   >>LINDA: I appreciate the introduction prayed this is Linda, I hope that

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while welcome everybody he was here. I hope we have some of our great contributors from

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session

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one about peers support and session to about the volunteer programs and recruitment.

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At this wrap-up session.

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I really really enjoyed all the comments and questions you have

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had so far. I hope that you will

- you are here to join us and share again.

I work at the Center for Independent living that serves metro Atlanta called disABILITY LINK, a retired from full-time work and do some very very part-time now, lovely stuff like this

sharing time with you and my April friends. Thank you.

PRIL friends. Thank you. >>KYLE: My name is Kyle Kleist, I’m the executive director at the Center for Independent living for Western Wisconsin. We serve ten counties in western Wisconsin. Our main office is a Menomini located an hour straight east of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

>>LINDA: Well, I'm happy to be here.

With Kyle. We are interested in hearing from with Kyle. We are interested in hearing from you further, so we have a few questions with regard to peer support. The topic of the first session earlier today. But we are happy to discuss any aspect
of peers support that we didn't quite complete

in our earlier conversation, or you felt you had something else to say

, we would like to hear from you, very much.

As we say, we call this the wrap up, take-home, and peer sharing. You

have done great sharing already but we would love you to do some more if you're up for it.

>>KYLE: So the first question Linda and I wanted to ask people, is what makes peers support worthwhile?

You know, I loved a lot of the comments earlier about lived experience. Because for me, personally, that is

what Pierce support - what makes peers support worthwhile. I had a mentor

peer support - what makes peers support worthwhile. I had a mentor 30 days in rehab following my spinal cord

injury over 30 years ago, and it was a gentleman who had been in a wheelchair for 20 years already.

So, I always considered it paying it forward so to speak.

But like I was talking about earlier, I was recruited, one of my first things to be AP room mentor

in independent living and have had the opportunity to do that a number of times.
a peer room mentor in independent living and have had the opportunity to do that a number of times. I've had

the opportunity when I was a peer support coordinator to recruit other persons with disabilities with great

lived expenses. That they were able to share with other persons, and just the opportunity, I mean,

especially around advocacy and other things as Linda had talked about earlier.

A lot of the great advocacy work and stuff that we had done

it's really kind of, has come around about peers support and other things.

So what do other people think, what makes peers support worthwhile?

Feel free to chime in, sorry, it's been a long day.

>>BETH: I have a comment from Jake Morris.

It's let the consumer feel heard and understood.

>>KYLE: A wonderful comment.

>>LINDA: A good start, yes.   >>KYLE: Yes.

>>LINDA: All of us want to be heard.   >>KYLE: Yes Pete

>>LINDA: Sometimes in the disability community we haven't been allowed to be heard so we want to make
sure we give that opportunity. >>KYLE: Definitely a way of connecting people, we talked about

that so much in rural areas free to love the way so many of the rural centers have chimed in today

to talk about how connecting people in rural areas could be difficult, but

how much using technologies brought people together.

>>LINDA:

For me, a couple of things that I think about when I think about peers support being worthwhile,

I would say the most incredibly worthwhile, because we notice a very powerful tool

, it's obviously a core service for those of us

support being worthwhile, I would say the most incredibly worthwhile, because we notice a very powerful

tool, it's obviously a core service for those of us at centers for independent living but I like to think of it as a

tool towards the other goals that people have, maybe not so much an end in itself.

One of the things that I like to talk about
in the peer support training I facilitate, is that
what you can expect from a peer who has lived experience, is much more likely to be empathy rather than sympathy. Empathy is a much more empowering experience than sympathy. That alone, to me, makes peer support programs worthwhile. I mean, we do peer support all over the place and centers for independent living, don't we? We are peers supporting each other right now, center to center, individual to individual. We do in full mode peer support where we might just share some information and resources to somebody that we happen to be talking to. Excuse me. (Coughing) Or we might have more, I will have to take a drink, sorry. >>KYLE: No. >>LINDA: I will stop talking here. >>KYLE: Not a problem. Linda, you make a great point because I was talking earlier about that I am have a
staff that is doing an adaptive game event and a lot of that is peer support two. Bringing disabilities together and maybe just around playing World Of War Craft but it's still peer support so really is an opportunity for individuals with disabilities, and a lot of times across disabilities to get together and engage with one another. >>LINDA: That makes it more understanding within the disability community, so that we can be more supportive of one another and more powerful as a group of people, as we for our needs. Sorry about that.

We had informal, formal, peer support, programs, we have peer-to-peer programs that APRIL is so good at facilitating. Peer support is all over the place. I would say where else can you get peer support? There is not very many places in the world that peer support is emphasized
, as it is in independent living. Obviously we know about all kinds of recovery groups that use peer support

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methods, but it is not everywhere in the world.

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Most of the world, I feel, once they tell people what to do, not listening to what they are thinking about.

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>>KYLE: A wonderful point. I love it earlier that somebody brought it back to not only is it a core service but why is it a core service.

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So yeah, between one of the core services because

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peer support is so fundamental in allowing individuals with disabilities

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and lived experience to connect and share that experience.

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I love this next question, this is one of Linda's because one of the largest barrier to have a peer support program of your dreams.

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Think big, if you were, I mean, folks if you are to have the peer support program

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of your dreams

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, so let's say you have unlimited funding. Maybe unlimited funding is the barrier

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, so what do you think is the largest barriers out there right now?
To really having some great peer support programs?

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We would love to hear from people, I noted

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know it has been a long day in the late afternoon.

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   >>LINDA: For some people it's late afternoon, for some of you does

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quite earlier in the day so we are expecting more energy from you. (Laughing).

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   >>KYLE: Please raise your hand

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and feel free to speak up or put comments in the chat.         >>BETH:

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We had a person raise their hand, but I did not see where

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the hand was raised from.       >> That would be

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Renata, go ahead.

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   >> Thank you

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, Abby.

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I think I have, or I feel it is to answers, I have two answers.

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I would say one

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being funding, and then
for me, I think the other part is just

securing the volunteers

because it is so hard right now. Like some volunteers are gung ho and ready to go. Then you have some that

are still a little apprehensive, and again

I think due to COVID and other things.

Now you have the whole monkeypox thing

, situation going on. I think especially for the senior volunteers, that

you may acquire,

and it's still a little difficult for some of them.

They are still a little apprehensive, so those would be

the two biggest things, I think that would be barriers that

I can think of. Me, personally,

I love the whole peer aspect person, like I am the volunteer

, I volunteer outside of work, just
that is my whole hobby life, I guess.

So I love it, and when we were going through COVID

and that, that was one group, that was one of

the services in the groups that

I was really worried about, just because I know

that for some of these individuals, it's the only outlet they had. It's the only time

that they have to really interact with their peers

, and really be heard

about things, and get their frustrations out sometimes.

Sometimes that happens too, and that is another one of those things

that can be said amongst your peers, but maybe not around your family, or close friends so much.

>>KYLE: Thank you.       >>BETH: We have

Jake Morris and Bob Creighton.

They both agreed that it is funding

. Then also, we have one
Jake also said our biggest barrier would be that counting myself, my CEO, has four employees. Though we are currently looking tired, an IL specialist. Another comment was from Joel, education, understanding in a role area of what peer support is all about. Then, I'm sorry. Use leading to everyone is funding and human resources. Then Jordan Hayes, staff time is a barrier with our smaller SC IL and our small team is being pulled to other core services, and in more demand. And that is - .

Having the staff time to devote to peer support a lot of times takes a backseat when you're doing a lot of IL.
skills training prayed when you're doing a lot of some see IL

CIL are doing advocacy work and other things. So yes, a lot of times it does. That is hard to dedicate that

. When you're doing a lot of some CIL are doing advocacy work and other things. So yes, a lot of times it

does. That is hard to dedicate that staff, and especially with the smaller locations. We have somewhat smaller

skills that you have five or six IL staffed, and everybody is busy.

It is hard to fit it in. The pandemic didn't help.

It was, for our center, the CARES Act funding, it was a lot of extra work that went on to our IL

staff as well.

Getting out there, meeting the needs of people,

but we needed the CARES Act funding during the pandemic.

Yeah, staff time, resources, and funding goes a long way. So my advice there, is

boy, let's advocate like hell

when it comes to the Senate version of

WEOLA and get the independent increase for independent living.
Higher than the house version P let's go for 250 million, which is like

. Let's go for 250 million, which is like I'm thinking maybe that will meet in the middle, but yeah on top of so

many independent living centers, not getting the extra funding for the fifth core service of transition

, we are still struggling with providing that

core service of peer support.

>>LINDA: It's been my experience with, especially with smaller and

medium-sized centers for independent living, that it is sometimes difficult to get together the resources that are

required up front for programs that can be as worthwhile

as volunteers or programs.

They do take time and effort

programs. They do take time and effort from before they start running, making sure that you've got the

peer programs. They do take time and effort from before they start running, making sure that you've got the
everything sorted out. That can be quite a challenge when you are already pulled, as you say, in many different

directions. Some just see more immediate than others and we are living through a pandemic and we know

we need to respond to people in that way. So it is a challenge. No doubt about it.

>>BETH: We have two more comments.

>>LINDA: Okay, great. >>KYLE: Please, yes. >>BETH: Use leading, lack of

Youth leading, lack of technology to clone myself (laughing). Then Jamie

Whitefield, the rural aspect is the second barrier

. Our center covers seven counties

in the tiniest area of the state. Transportation county to county is limited.

A lot of elderly population.

>>KYLE: Yes, absolutely. We have one

center here in Wisconsin that believe it or not covers 17 counties. Most of them predominantly rural.

But you bring up, I was surprised to many people one of the takeaways from today I heard is the difficulty when

it comes to youth.
Of recruiting youth and programs.

Is that something you have heard today, Linda? >>LINDA:

Yes, for a lot of reasons, clearly. But we want to support our youth. They are our future after all.

But youth have other things going on like school, college and so on that takes up a lot of time and energy.

To me though, one of the biggest barriers to peer support is that people don't know what it is. They have not experienced it before, so it is my experience that our consumers don't necessarily know to say I would like peer support, they don't ask for that because they don't know what it is.

And our volunteers don't say I would like to be a peer supporter, at least not in those terms because those are not words that are used that much in the world that is not IL.

So I think that that is a challenge for people.
It is our challenge then to receive those requests, and develop it into the program that we want whether it be a volunteer program, or the peer support program or something like that.  

I had been on an IL you U webinar earlier with Paul McAbee when we were talking about centers doing reviews. There is nothing really in the regulations around peer support. So, that is why centers, a lot of centers do peer support differently and track it differently. 

I am not calling for more regulation, gosh no. I love the fact that so many centers and what we have heard today, do some really unique things and in unique ways of providing peer support. Many have gone to do it in a lot of groups using zoom, and other platforms.
It is just great to hear that it is being done and that people are focusing on it, just as our center is trying, we engage when it comes to peer support or as we are calling it a partnership.

Grant, creativity is the big positive in the rural area and we are only limited by our imagination.

The second one is from Maria, we cover six counties in and five of them are rural. Transportation and Sulfone Wi-Fi services to be able to join zoom activities, then they ended.

Okay, we come - okay.

This is from Karen, I incorporate
peer support in my IL

and transition classes, fortunately

I get to go into the local schools in the five counties.

We cover, we are also about

e cover, we are also about ten rural areas.

we cover, we are also about ten rural areas. Second, DN, Pierce supports are just as important as natural supports

for our consumers.

>>KYLE: Wonderful comments.

So, what do people think are the most surprising elements of peer support programs?

>>LINDA: Let me check the chat while people are putting their thoughts together in the chat or the Q&A. That I think

while people are putting their thoughts together in the chat or the Q&A. That I think the most surprising

is when people are introduced to it, they use it beautifully

. I still say the barrier is
knowing about it, recognizing it as a powerful tool that it is.

Once people have had that opportunity,

how wonderfully useful it is to empower all of us

one at a time and as groups

to get on and live the life that we want to live.

>>KYLE: You know, I will add I think one of the surprising elements

is it helps to wring people to independent living, like myself. First being recruited as

a peer support mentor and finding my way to working

at an independent living center or being involved in my state

independent living Council, or on the board by independent living center.

So a lot of different ways to serve

IL, not just at the center itself but it's boards, and the state independent living councils. So glad to see we

have so many that were on today as well.

Other thoughts from people, some surprising elements of Pierce support
programs?  >>BETH: We have

Joel's hand is up.

>>

Hi, this is Joelle with Wyoming independent living. One of the most surprising elements about kind of redoing our peer support programs and groups was just finding out how really quality conversation comes about when people are doing anything from art, or adaptive painting, or we have adaptive cooking classes, things like that. Just a natural conversation that comes about. People in peer support,
has been a really great aspect to our programs.

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>>LINDA: Thank you, Joelle. Yes, as I say it happens over

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all over the place, this peer support whether it's labeled that or not.   >>KYLE:

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You're absolutely right, I look at the event we do with our

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fishing and boundaries, the number of individuals with disabilities that come out on a yearly basis. The

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friendships and networks they made and the peer support that goes on at those activities.

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Other ones we do around advocacy and other stuff like that, those are, a lot of those

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natural events we do at independent living are also peer support events as well whether we recognize that were

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see that as well.   >>LINDA:

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I don't know how surprising this is, but it was certainly powerful for me. Early on

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in our developing peer support training, we did some evaluations

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of different types of training and different situations.

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There was this particular gentleman who had lost his sight through an industrial accident,

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and he came to a peer support training, and he put into words

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perhaps what other people have felt.

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He had said something, and

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I it wasn't exactly like this but something along the lines of,

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"I really thought I had nothing to offer the world anymore. Now I know

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that I have plenty to offer the world.: That was obviously

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" That was obviously really touching to hear somebody make that powerful revelation, and we
know that is true

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of other people, who participate in peer support, there is this wonderful mutual beneficial
aspect of peer

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support. It's not about one person getting in one person receiving, it is more like

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Kyle was saying, a partnership where people share different aspects of their experiences

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that might be useful to the other person.

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>>KYLE: Onto the last question,

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what do you want everyone to know about peer support programs?

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So what would be the way, the way we want everybody out there who doesn't know about
independent living

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, and we want to educate them, what do we want them to know about peer support?
Feel free to throw your comments into the chat on that one. I would love to hear it. I have my own thoughts of course, but I would love to hear from everybody else on what you think.

If you had a chance, what do you want people to know about peer support?

If you are trying to sell it to people. Here is your chance to be a salesman.

You want to sell peer support, what do you want to say to people?  

Help other people to in the process of developing that peer support.

For me, I will be honest, it was I had something to give. The person I had met with, the ritual at the time was the resource counselor. Hearing from him and him saying Kyle you have so much to give, you've done this, your independent, you're going to college and doing this. You have so much experience,
lived experience that you can share with other people, nobody had ever said that to me before. That I got

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something that I should give back. So that was really important to me.

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That is what I want other people to know, is that individuals with disabilities have something they can

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give back, they have that lived experience.  >>LINDA:

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That is not available anywhere else, I would like to add.

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Yes, we can have professionals and families

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, family members in our life and we appreciate the assistance they might provide. But that is not the same as

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peer support. Of course - .  >>KYLE: I was just going to say Linda, it comes free of charge two.

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oo. I don't know any centers that charge for peer support.

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So like all of our other platforms out there, this one is free of charge.

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Your ability to get out there and meet with and talk to other individuals with disabilities that have the same

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lived experience.  >>LINDA: It's another eye-opening bargain.

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  >>KYLE: Yes, a great way of saying it.

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LINDA: Anybody else want to add - please go ahead. Sorry.

BETH: That is all right. We have a confident comment from Mary. Building confidence and social skills.

Then Raton

a - . Run out of. BETH: It's definitely needed now more than ever, and could make such a difference for

. BETH: It's definitely needed now more than ever, and could make

onata. BETH: It's definitely needed now more than ever, and could make

such a difference for persons with disability. LINDA: Here here, thank you.

BETH: With disability and the way that they view their quality of life.

KYLE: Definitely. LINDA: As we know,

some of the experiences that people are sharing have been tough ones

, and it is great stats

. Those experiences can be used not just by the

experience firsthand, but the people who are also sharing that information or receiving that information.
One of my favorite phrases I like to use regarding peer support is,

that peer support expands opportunities and explores alternatives. So so many people that we meet feel like they might be stuck, they are not going anywhere,

the Roberts independent living is the idea that everybody has a future.

We know sometimes that people don't feel like they have a future.

The capacity for peer support to expand opportunities and explore alternatives have been, I think that is it, that is what we do. We help people get unstuck and get on with what they want to do in their lives.

So should we move on to the wrap up on volunteers? Do we have any more comments? Linda and Kyle, I put this in the chat. This is Abby.

You did, there was a question from the first session today that you said we could come back to this afternoon.
KYLE: Sure. In appear support group setting, how would you handle a participant who changes the topic of conversation to religion and wants to share his or her faith as well as pray for the group out loud? KYLE: I've always come across the situations in! Of the person, it's like look, I understand and respect your religious beliefs but at the same time you need to respect other people's religious beliefs as well. So people might not be as comfortable with that, so I would ask you to please withhold from doing that. So that is generally how I would approach it with the individual. Let them know I'm being respectful of their beliefs but at the same time, maybe they need to be respectful of others as well. BETH: We have another in the chat. Karen, I would want people to know that what each person has to say is important just as who they are is important. KYLE: Well said.
something with regards to the question from the first session. That is,

why it is a good idea to have guidelines

for peer support, whether it be individualized or in a group

Certainly in a group that is repeated

in each group, to remind people about how

they can respect one another, and that might include the group members that can

decide what they would like to have in that guideline.

That might include something about the sharing

of religious or faith personal experiences

or along those lines.      

I ask people - pre-      

Guidelines beforehand, that's what is trying to say.

Thank you, Linda. I was going to say I do the same thing with politics as well.

We talk about politics and religion and I ask people to do the same thing.
If you have strong political beliefs, please keep those to yourself because you know, your beliefs might be

00:35:29.000 --> 00:35:35.000
counter to what the person in your peer group relationship with

00:35:35.000 --> 00:35:39.000
, and you're not here to discuss politics. So.       >>LINDA:

00:35:39.000 --> 00:35:46.000
That is how where good peer support training can be useful.

00:35:46.000 --> 00:35:50.000
So if you are facilitating, or providing peer support that you have some

00:35:50.000 --> 00:35:54.000
ways of dealing with boundaries,

00:35:54.000 --> 00:35:58.000
and those kinds of things.

00:35:58.000 --> 00:36:01.000
Before you have even started to get into that tricky situation.

00:36:01.000 --> 00:36:06.000
I hope that is useful.       >>BETH: We have two comments. Agree

00:36:06.000 --> 00:36:09.000
, the guidelines

00:36:09.000 --> 00:36:12.000
set - goodness.

00:36:12.000 --> 00:36:16.000
It jumped up on me, I am sorry.

00:36:16.000 --> 00:36:19.000
A great, guidelines set in advance of the religion and politics

00:36:19.000 --> 00:36:23.000
comes up, that is from Diane.

00:36:23.000 --> 00:36:26.000
We have Bobby Creighton, yes Kyle, and we have
Dickie. Everyone has something to give

and getting out of one's self

, and working with others gives us purpose. Joy

and seeing the bigger picture of life, and we see what is working together

with others like minded.

>>LINDA: Appreciate that.

>>BETH: People can accomplish, one of my favorite quotes is, "

unless someone likes you - unless

someone like you cares a whole awful lot

, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

" - Dr. Seuss.   >>KYLE: I have not heard Dr. Seuss

quoted that, that's wonderful.   >>LINDA: Thank you Beth, I appreciate that.

Volunteers and volunteer programs for the first question, what makes volunteers worthwhile?

I would like to say something
while people are thinking.

00:37:40.000 --> 00:37:44.000
One of the things that people say

00:37:44.000 --> 00:37:49.000
I say too much, but I do say it is a lot then, is

00:37:49.000 --> 00:37:53.000
there are far too many people with disabilities sitting at home watching TV.

00:37:53.000 --> 00:37:57.000
So peer support, volunteer programs

00:37:57.000 --> 00:38:03.000
, one of the many ways or two of the many ways I should say, that

00:38:03.000 --> 00:38:08.000
we can change the energy around that, that people are not just sitting at home watching TV.

00:38:08.000 --> 00:38:15.000
That they are participating in the world as fully as they wish to.     >>KYLE: Yes.

00:38:15.000 --> 00:38:18.000
Thank you, Linda. Allowing people to connect.

00:38:18.000 --> 00:38:23.000
     >>LINDA: See the big picture, the other quote said "seeing the bigger

00:38:23.000 --> 00:38:28.000
picture " beyond your own personal situation.

00:38:28.000 --> 00:38:32.000
     >>BETH:

00:38:32.000 --> 00:38:37.000
- .     >>KYLE: For our center, it is not only, our volunteers have the backbone

00:38:37.000 --> 00:38:41.000
of the driver program as well, but the volunteers

00:38:41.000 --> 00:38:46.000
, they get so much out of it as well, they really do. It is really great to see that
, that not only are they providing us with such a great service, but

that they are really getting something out of it from themselves as well personally.

>>LINDA: Yeah, I mean my mom and dad taught me the more you put into

something, the more you get out of it. So that is true of volunteer programs and peer support.

Put energy into it and you will get twice as much back out.

So, do we have any thoughts on what makes volunteering worthwhile?

Or maybe the next question, what is the largest barrier when using volunteers? Anybody who

would like

to share their thoughts on that? Your thoughts would be most welcomed.

>>KYLE: I know a lot of people have pointed it out before and I

was glad it was brought up, was the insurance issue when it comes to using volunteers. Your center

makes sure, many times I am sure, that you will have a number of policy.

Many times I'm sure you have policies that cover your board as well.

So, but yes,

our umbrella policy here at SOW
covers the volunteers that we use, but also within our drivers as well.

W covers the volunteers that we use, but also within our drivers as well. Other ones?

>> We have - . >>BETH: We have some comments. Okay?

I will start with Caitlin, we don't always have

follow-through with consumers using our services.

So it makes it difficult to promise a volunteer that they'll have consumers

following through to keep the volunteer active.

Then we have another one, community outreach

and through the lack of someone to direct and manage the volunteer. Then

on the comment prior to what you're discussing,

Bob was saying in recognition of world mental health day.

He had a statement prior to that.

It was,

"now more than ever is the time for connection, kindness, and action.

We are all in this together, and together.
We heal us. Mental health, mental health awareness, be kind.

remember connect world.

" That is all connected to the mental - world mental health day. >>LINDA: Which it is today, thank you.

>> Caitlin, I saw that you just put something in the chat. I saw that you also had your hand up.

If you are interested, would you like to speak out, if not, that is fine. All right, let me Kaylynn, I saw that you just put something in the chat. I saw that you also had your hand up. If you are interested, would you like to speak out, if not, that is fine. All right, let me .

>>BETH: I can read. Our job teaching transition students. >> No.

>>BETH: Sorry. Kaelin is on. >> Is just going to say similar along the lines to what I said in the chat is, with us teaching

transitional age students, having volunteers is kind of a struggle sometimes because
ylann is on. > Is just going to say similar along the lines to what I said in the chat is, with us teaching transitional age students, having volunteers is kind of a struggle sometimes because we have to make sure they are cleared for being entered into the school and that they have familiarity working with kids, especially kids with disabilities. Some people don't, it might be a good teacher but might not be a good teacher with students with disabilities. We have to make sure they are able to do it and they are comfortable with doing it because people are somewhat a little less comfortable in situations in a moderate class, or if something is going on. Like they may not know how to handle an upset student. > LINDA: I can see that Kaylynn, that the schools adding another layer of complexity to the process, that the schools adding another layer of complexity to the process. >> Kind of like how the insurance is for drivers, it's the same. They have to have a clear background check, they can't have anything going on, but something I was going to say about volunteers in general
and our peer support is, we love having them come to class.

Our peer supporters, you probably met a few of them because I think you do our peer support classes

But I love having them come to class with us, because you know, even though I am the TA or the one running the class, I will absolutely hand it off to the peer supporter if they want to talk about bullying or certain subjects that they are more familiar with then I am.

I love giving them that opportunity to use their voice and be able to speak up. Because sometimes it means I see the kids faces light up when they see them get to talk about all these amazing things, and it's really an awesome thing to have them with us. I am so thankful for them.

people know when you are speaking with some authenticity, they understand if you really have experiences or just talking. There's a difference.
>>KYLE: Kaylynn, you brought up one of the things is having too many

00:44:13.000 --> 00:44:19.000
hoops to jump through so to speak. We had a community attribute program and part of the things

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was our mentors would go into the jail to meet with people.

00:44:22.000 --> 00:44:30.000
Well let me tell you, the hoops that they had to jump through and everything they had to go through just

00:44:30.000 --> 00:44:34.000
to get into the jail, it was a turnoff to them and they were like it is just

00:44:34.000 --> 00:44:38.000
- the paperwork into the thing else, the treatment is you know,

00:44:38.000 --> 00:44:44.000
I really love to volunteer but just not with this program. So, yeah.

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It was, we tried to smooth things out with the jail but they had their procedures and they were going to

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change.       >> Right, that is how it is with the school district as well.

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They're not willing to budge, they have to have background checks, you know

00:44:57.000 --> 00:45:04.000
, that is something we can't pass up.       >>LINDA: Yeah.

00:45:04.000 --> 00:45:07.000
       >>KYLE: I see our time is running short.

00:45:07.000 --> 00:45:12.000
I wanted to ask a question, what are some ways you could use volunteers at your center? We have been talking

00:45:12.000 --> 00:45:18.000
about volunteers today.
Have people had a chance to think of what are some of the ways that we could use volunteers that we haven't? One of the things that I am always impressed by his when I was working with steppingstones, one of the resources I included earlier was the program is food pantry, as a homeless shelter as well, they said once people come in and start volunteering, they get hooked. They just love to volunteer. So you know, stones, one of the resources I included earlier was the program is food pantry, as a homeless shelter as well, they said once people come in and start volunteering, they get hooked. They just love to volunteer. So you know, if we can hook people and get them to volunteer if we have some great programs, I talked about how much our drivers enjoy volunteering. What are some of the things that we can use volunteers for in our centers? >>LINDA: If you are thinking about IL and peer support
volunteers would be very good to organize volunteers, would they not?

In that way of thinking, not that that would exclude obviously efforts to

o but it's a thought.    >>BETH: We have one

, we have used retired veterans

to help build ramps for consumers before.

I love volunteers but sometimes it is

a long process to get them able to be volunteered.

>>LINDA: I like that, thinking about

home modifications, yes Pete we have used volunteers many times for that, you are right.

And, yes.    >>KYLE: I hate to say it but one of the things we have reached out to,

is we have the Chapel Valley builders which serves a number of builders

in our area. They were doing some ramps and stuff for us but one of the things they wanted was to be able to

advertise that they do that. That they help people out in the community, it's like you go ahead, advertise all you

want as long as we get the free ramps, I'm okay with that.
But they don't do that as much anymore, I'm sorry to say.

If there are people that are out there volunteering, like I said, recognition goes a long way.

>>LINDA:

And for that example you just said before, Kyle, recognizing the mutual benefit in relationships that work. If that organization, the building company needs to use that for their advertising, so be it as long as it is working and a benefit for IL on the other end.

It's a win-win as they say. >>KYLE: Yes.

You know, I suppose ways you could use volunteers, but it goes with our last question, what are some volunteer programs you can develop? Throughout their.

What are some programs you currently don't have but there is a need for, similar with what we did with transportation. We knew there was a need for transportation, and our solution was using the volunteer drivers.
It took a long time to develop but what are some programs out there that you could use volunteers for then?

That aren't existing today. Besides peer support. >>LINDA: How long did your
volunteer driver program take to develop? Can you answer that question off the top of your head or is it to
dated? >>KYLE: It's been about 20 years now going strong but it took us
, to where we were providing services even just our ten counties it was probably about six years.

So five years, it took a while to grow from a few drivers

A lot of work, like I said, goes into recruitment. Figure that staff
going into it

, but the payoff, I mean Linda you talked to me before about not just looking at the staff time involved but
the payoff that comes from that. >>LINDA: Yeah.

Seeing the bigger benefit. Yeah.

So any thoughts about volunteer programs
that you'd like to develop or are developing?

Any thoughts about volunteers in general?

Any comments on anything that we have spoken about so far?

Anything you would like people to know?

I have to say, I am really really appreciated the thoughtfulness and the quality of comments and questions that you have shared. I think it's been really beneficial to the rest of us., and I appreciate you taking the time and the energy to do it.

We had something like 100 people at the first two sessions, slightly less than that in this wrap-up session. That is a lot of your time and energy you are sharing with us. It's very much appreciated. This is how peer support works. Absolutely. Thank you,

well said Linda.

We always talk about your support, but peer support happened so much.

I love going, I will say, as much as we are doing virtual, I did love going to the
Nickel in person in DC.

Because you have such an opportunity to just network and mentor with people, kind of after hours.

Nickel in person in D.C. Because you have such an opportunity to just network and mentor with people, kind of after hours sort of.

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Nickel in person in D.C. Because you have such an opportunity to just network and mentor with people, kind of after hours sort of.

I loved the peer support that goes on in independent living.

>>BETH: Yes, there are emoji's

They are clapping hands, hearts,

and there were - yes.

Clapping hands, hearts, thumbs up.

>>LINDA: That is terrific. >>BETH: Thank you everyone, we

have just a few minutes. About seven minutes to go. I would just like to remind everybody

if you haven't done your evaluation for
one, two, or three session

when this webinar closes

, let us know how we can continue to improve

, and keep improving training that you find most useful.

Thank you all for joining us,

and don’t forget if you are registered for the youth conference, to join at

4:00 PM Pacific time, 7:00 PM Eastern time tonight.

We hope all will be able to join us tomorrow for our welcoming

at 9:00 AM Pacific time

, 12:00 PM Eastern time.

Do you have any closing remarks Linda or Kyle?

>>KYLE: No, I just want

to again, thank everyone

. It’s been an enjoyable day, I love the comments from people around peer support. The volunteers,
it's been a wonderful wonderful opportunity

00:52:39.000 --> 00:52:44.000
to just share with one another what we are doing.     >>LINDA: Absolutely,

00:52:44.000 --> 00:52:47.000
and I have to say thank you to APRIL

00:52:47.000 --> 00:52:51.000
for being so competent at

00:52:51.000 --> 00:52:56.000
making this all happened and getting people together so that we can share

00:52:56.000 --> 00:53:03.000
and provide peer support to each other. Hopefully, just enjoy some company

00:53:03.000 --> 00:53:09.000
and the feeling of support that that gives us as we go about our work,

00:53:09.000 --> 00:53:12.000
which let's be honest, can be very tricky at times. We need to be supportive of one another as we

00:53:12.000 --> 00:53:17.000
do the important things we do. Thank you to APRIL

00:53:17.000 --> 00:53:22.000
and everybody there, thank you to everybody who has participated.

00:53:22.000 --> 00:53:28.000
It's been a real honor and a treat. A real honor. Thank you so much.     >>KYLE:

00:53:28.000 --> 00:53:33.000
I second that Linda, thank you to the interpreters as well.

00:53:33.000 --> 00:53:37.000
The APRIL staff has been wonderful at coordinating of thing today, it couldn't have gone better.

00:53:37.000 --> 00:53:40.000
     >>LINDA: I would agree.     >> Thank you both so much.

00:53:40.000 --> 00:53:45.000
     >>LINDA: Thank you, Abby.     >> Inc. You both so much on
behalf of APRIL. Kyle, you mentioned something about being in person at nickel, the after-hours conversations. We are really hoping to try to facilitate that the best we can even though we are in a virtual space. So I am going to put a link in the chat. We have set up an APRIL discord. If you are unfamiliar, discord is a web messaging platform that allows for text chatting, voice chatting, and video chatting. We have set it up for our conference, there are threads for each day and each session. So please feel free to join, it is free to join. All you need is a discord account, which will link to your email address, and myself and one of our board members Mel Skelton will be there to help you get oriented to the platform. But we would be so happy to have you and we are
hoping that we can really continue these conversations about each of our sessions comment about

IL in general in that space.         >>LINDA: Excellent

, I forgot about that. Thank you for the reminder.         >>KYLE: Yeah, I was - .

>>BETH: Thank you to the captioner’s, Bonnie and Samantha.

>>LINDA: Definitely.       >>KYLE: Definitely.

>> As a reminder, if you are registered for the youth conference,

Beth already called out but our youth keynote speaker this evening is YouTube advocate

squirmy and scrubs.

We are very excited to have them join us, if you are registered for the youth conference,

we will see you in about two hours for that.

>>LINDA: I hope everybody has fun with the rest

of the APRIL conference and all the good things you have organized for us. Well done, and thank you.

>>KYLE: Yes.       >> All right.
Linda and Kyle, if there's any information you need us to share after this, please feel free to send it.

00:55:53.000 --> 00:55:54.000
to APRIL and we can post it on the conference website as well. >>KYLE: Will do, thank you Abby.

00:55:54.000 --> 00:55:58.000
   >> Thank you everybody.       >>KYLE: Goodbye.

00:55:58.000 --> 00:55:59.000
   >> Have a great evening and we will see you tomorrow or tonight at the youth conference.