Fostering Rural Connections
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Introductions

• Your presenters
• Rural movies
Why are rural communities traditionally underserved?
What makes Centers for Independent Living so unique in being able to do outreach?
The RCLD Peer Mentoring Model

• A peer-to-peer mentoring program

• Partnering CIL staff skilled in rural community outreach with CIL staff interested in developing and practicing these skills
What are some methods you have used to do rural outreach?
The pilot curriculum

• Getting started
  • Rural outreach and networking strategies
    • Example activity: Know before you go
    • Example activity: Assessing your CIL’s readiness
    • Example activity: Have a meeting or coffee with a connected person
Getting people involved

• Building effective community development teams
  • Example activity: CIL staff strengths, skills, and experiences
  • Example team activity: Have group make a list of the positive aspects of the community
  • Example team activity: Appreciative inquiry
9 Working Together

• Cultivating curiosity to establish healthy group dynamics
  • Example team activity: Conversation Café
  • Example team activity: 1-2-4-All
  • Example team activity: “Yes and”
10 Tricks and tips

• On the ground, Christina and Dori
  • Overview
  • Successes – what things happened to make these possible
  • Challenges or learning opportunities
11 Key lessons learned

• Find the resources you need (e.g., interns!)
• Identify how your center is a resource
• Be patient, it can take time
More lessons

- Be brave, it won’t always be perfect
- Finding common goals (e.g., reaching Latinx rural community members)
- Starting where you have some connection can be helpful
13 Questions?
What’s next?

• Recruiting new CIL staff to be mentored by existing participants and RTC:Rural staff to increase their capacity and reach in their rural service area!

• Drop your email in the chat or direct message us for more information!
How did you do?
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