

**Post-Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Activities Workgroup**

**Meeting Minutes – DRAFT**

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Committee Members:** Matt Baker (YLF Staff), Ashley Burrell (Department of Rehabilitation: DOR), Danielle Hess (State Independent Living Council: SILC), Luis Mendoza (YLF Staff), and Jonny Vallin (YLF Alum and Staff)

**CCEPD Staff Members:** Maria Aliferis-Gjerde**,** Margaret Balistreri, Zachariah Ford, and Daniel Gounder

**Members of the Public:** Justin Harford (National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chairs Baker called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of October 12, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Hess/Burrell) to approve the October meeting minutes. Motion was approved by 4-0-0 vote. (Yes – Members: Baker, Burrell, Hess, Mendoza), (No – Members: none), (Abstain – Members: none)

1. **2021 Post-YLF Activities**

Debrief/Feedback on Work Experience Workshop – October 28

* The presentation with slides was informative and having the real-life experience from alumni was a positive.
* Low alumni participation: strategies for participation to be discussed.

January Workshop and Recruitment Strategies

* Date – At this time, focus on getting more active participation rather than scheduling another workshop for January.
* The hope is that the Benefits Planning workshop is well attended. It’s better to wait and work on attendance strategies and creating more interaction with alumni.

Discussion on Improving Attendance:

* It seems that presentations have low attendance because people are on their computers all day with classes or working from home. The hope is that as everyone moves away from their computer and more into in person classes/work people will become more interested in virtual meetings.
* It could be beneficial if the topic is known in advance to have the topics align with the direction the student is going in. Having a presentation on transitioning from high school to college should happen before it occurs for the alumni.
* Have a calendar of events for six months and provide certificates as incentives for completing the workshops.
* Look at incentives for alumni to participate such as the possibility of participation boosting their resumes or school applications.
* There are a lot of people including transition-age students who are not looking for work right now for various reasons such as afraid to get sick or losing other benefits. Topics that are not on their radar will not attract students.
* Possibly offering gift cards would get people interested in attending with additional rewards for attending multiple sessions or raffles of some kind.
* It would probably be helpful to focus on the current delegates and utilize the older alumni as panelists and putting the event on.
* Try a different platform rather than Zoom such as Google or Facebook.
* Possible live stream future workshops from Zoom and Facebook.
* Alumni that are interested in YLF co-counselor and other positions should be encouraged to participate more in the presentations and workshops.

Summary of Action Items:

* A Calendar of Events will be put together.
* The next event could take place before the 2022 YLF or right afterwards.
* Events will be on Zoom and live streamed on Facebook or Instagram.
* Alumni will be encouraged to participate in the presentations as peer mentoring and growth opportunities for YLF positions.

2022 Calendar of Topics:

* Book workshops in January
* January thru June: focus on presenters for workshops. before YLF.
* Workshops will be for 2022 alumni only.
* The time and day of the week could have an impact on alumni attendance as well as presenters. It was decided to have the workshops from 4-5:30 p.m. on Thursdays.
* 2022 Delegates can be made to understand that post-YLF activities are a requirement of being selected.

Justin Harford from the National Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Exchange funded by the U.S Department of State provided an overview of the program:

* A student exchange program to study abroad is sponsored by the organization.
* A 30–60-minute presentation could be presented on studying abroad in foreign countries and how to ask for accommodations.
* These opportunities are typically available in the fall for yearlong programs but there are also summer programs that could last from 2-4 weeks or longer.
* Giving the presentation to high school students is good around August for fall programs but sometimes it could be up to a year for applications to acceptance.

Workgroup members agreed to include this program as a topic.

Other potential topics for students right after YLF:

* Financial aid application
* College
* August – Student Exchange Program
* Housing for people with disabilities (possible presenters – Independent Living Centers, Housing and Community Development)
* Transition information after high school to everyday life after turning 18 – self-advocacy, voting, obtaining identification card, etc.
* Financial Money Management
* Career Development Discussion (STEM)
* Options after high school such as internships, apprenticeships, trade schools.
1. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**
* Calendar of Topics
* Recruitment Strategies for Alumni Participation
1. **Public Comment**

No comments were provided.

1. **Adjourn**

Co-chair Vallin adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.