Youth Leadership - Youth Summits and Other Ways to Engage Youth

November 19, 2015
Reminders:

• Please mute your device once you join the call

• Remember to raise your hands for questions or write a message in text box

• We will give everyone a chance to ask questions at the end of the presentation
Reminders:

• If you are using more than one device for this webinar, please do not place next to each other, to reduce echoing or feedback.
• Make sure your speakers are turned on.
THE PURPOSE OF THIS WEBINAR

Participants will learn about successful strategies for the recruitment and development of youth leaders.
Cynthia “Cindy” Singletary & Taylor Carley
Why are Youth Vital to the Self-Advocacy and Disability Rights Movement?

The two most vital laws of disability rights have been in law for their whole lives.

- Youth need to know the history
- Youth need to know what the steps are to gain more rights and to keep from any progress from being lost
Why are Youth Vital to the Self-Advocacy and Disability Rights Movement?

The movement needs a fresh perspective.

• “This is how we have always done things.” This saying does not make this style the only and best way. Things change. Embrace the change.

• Mentors/”Experienced” advocates can help youth navigate through similar difficult experiences. The benefits and rights youth with disabilities live with are why you went through the hard times. Sharing experiences allow both perspectives to grow.
Including Youth Takes a Direct Effort

• If youth are not already part of the program, they will need to be shown why they need to devote their efforts and time. The question of “What’s in it for me?” must be addressed in outreach.

• Long-term goals are always part of our work, but there are short-term benefits that are often taken for granted.
Youth Outreach Styles

Partner with Organizations and Programs

• University Center on Excellence and Developmental Disabilities
• Centers on Independent Living (CILs)
• Parent Training Center (PTI)
• ARC
• NAACP
• Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)
• Department of Human Services (DHS)
• Schools/Colleges And any others serving youth (not only disability)
STEP UP Council

• Every UCEDD has a Consumer Advisory Council (CAC). We have structured IDS’s to have a youth/young adult sub-committee.

• The sub-committee has elected officers including two co-chairs. The Co-Chairs represent the sub-committee as full members of the CAC. STEP UP has a focus of service and fun to keep the youth actively involved.
How Mississippi Has Done It

TRIAD AmeriCorps
The UCEDD has had an AmeriCorps volunteer service program that has been geared to young adults inclusively providing a rare opportunity. This program has led to future jobs and education after their service terms.
How Mississippi Has Done It

AdvocacyTEAM

- Following the 2011 Regional Summits of AIDD, we decided to reinstate the state team of self-advocates with more self-advocates from throughout the state representing multiple disabilities, cultures and ages.

- Youth and young adults were a part of this mixture. The Team determined further guidelines including there will be Co-Chairs. One will be an “experienced” advocate. The other will be a youth/young adult. They will both be elected by the Team.
How Mississippi Has Done It

Youth Summits & Trainings

• Regional trainings focused on transition needs. Requires partnership with schools… Additional agency & organization partnerships encouraged.

• Multi-faceted…
  • Remember learning styles vary
  • Young adults & “experienced” advocates lead.
  • End with engaging to the other opportunities.
Youth Advocacy Summit
Thank You!!!

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IMAGE: A smiley with a big grin.
OCSS STATES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
1. What have you done to engage youth in your state?
THANK YOU!

Regional Self Advocacy Technical Assistance Center Funded by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.