Funding and Delivering Youth Transition Programs: One CIL’s Experience with Multiple Funding Sources

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3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. EDT

Presenter:
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Learning Objectives

• Describe funding sources used by one CIL to establish and maintain a youth transition program.
• Identify individual youth services and activities that may lend themselves to alternate funding streams.
• Identify the timeline of the addition of new programs and services to an existing center to successfully grow a new program.
• Describe youth services and activities successfully designed and operated by one CIL.
Independence First

- Metro-Milwaukee area CIL serving four counties
- Non-profit agency directed by and for the benefit of people with disabilities
- Mission: To effectively facilitate empowerment of individuals with disabilities through Education, Advocacy, Independent living Services and Coalition Building
- $35,051,223 budget
- Served 9,968 people in 2013
Once upon a time in 2004

- IndependenceFirst took on a graduate school fellow from Marquette University
- In the true form of an Independent Living center, she was allowed to make the position what she wanted it to be
- Thus the Youth Leadership Program was born
- Program initially funded by the Trinity Fellows Program/Marquette University and IF
  - IndependenceFirst contributed $1400 per month and receives a fellow to work 18 hours per week during the school year and 40 hours per week during the summer.
2005

• Youth program begins a collaboration with Wisconsin FACETS (a statewide family assistance center based in Milwaukee)

• Youth Leadership Summit program begins
  - 1 week summer program for high school students with disabilities to learn Independent Living and Transition skills.
  - Program funded by IF’s federal funding and WI FACETS
2006

• Trinity fellow running youth programs graduates with a master’s degree in Public Service, specializing in disability

• Second Youth Leadership Summit is held at IndependenceFirst and it is approved for the Trinity Fellow to stay on for the summer and run it.

• The first group of youth mentors are hired (alumni from 2005) to run group activities at the youth summit.

• Trinity fellow proposes new position of Youth Leadership Specialist to run a youth program at IF (approved by board and executive director)
2007

• Youth Programming
  – 3rd Youth Leadership Summit with youth mentors
  – Disability Mentoring Day (50 youth served)
  – IL classes for youth with cognitive disabilities

• Funding
  – New Youth Leadership Specialist position incorporated into budget (Federal/State funding)
  – $10,000 secured from Jane Bradley Petit Foundation for youth program
2008

• Youth Programming
  – Youth Leadership Summit (second week added)
  – Disability Mentoring Day (75 youth served)
  – Girls *First* program begins
  – Boundaries and personal space classes
  – IL Classes for youth with cognitive disabilities

• Funding
  – $40,000 Department of health and family services
  – $10,000 Jane Bradley Petit Foundation
  – $54,888 Miracle on Canal Street
    • YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IS NOW FULLY FUNDED
2009

• Youth Programming
  - Two Youth Leadership Summits
  - GirlsFirst (held 3 times per year)
  - Disability Mentoring Day (100 youth served)
  - Person Centered Planning
  - Transition Series
  - Boundaries and personal space Classes

• Funding
  - $10,000 Jane Bradley Petit Foundation
  - Department of Health and Family Services $40,000
  - $20,000 Youth Information, Training and Resource Center (YITRC) through WI FACETS
2010

• Youth Programming
  - Two Youth Leadership Summits
  - GirlsFirst (held 3 times per year)
  - Disability Mentoring Day (150 youth served)
  - Person Centered Planning & Transition Series
  - Boundaries and personal space Classes
  - Safe Relationships Safe Places classes begin

• Funding
  - $10,000 Jane Bradley Petit Foundation
  - Department of Health and Family Services $40,000
  - $20,000 Youth Information, Training and Resource Center (YITRC) through WI FACETS
  - $10,000 Ziemann Foundation & $3,000 Sensient Foundation
2011

• Youth Programming
  - Two Youth Leadership Summits & 5 year anniversary event
  - GirlsFirst (held 3 times per year)
  - Disability Mentoring Day (150 youth served)
  - Person Centered Planning & Transition Series
  - Boundaries and personal space Classes
  - Safe Relationships Safe Places classes

• Funding
  - $10,000 Jane Bradley Petit Foundation
  - $20,000 Youth Information, Training and Resource Center (YITRC) through WI FACETS
  - $20,000 Northwestern Mutual Foundation
2012

- Youth Programming
  - Two Youth Leadership Summits
  - GirlsFirst (held 3 times per year)
  - Disability Mentoring Day (160 youth served)
  - Boundaries and personal space Classes
  - Safe Relationships Safe Places classes
  - Sexuality education classes

- Funding
  - $3000 Sensient Foundation & $1,000 Ortgeisen Foundation
  - $20,000 Northwestern Mutual Foundation
  - FUNDING IS AT THE LOWEST POINT FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAM SINCE ITS INCEPTION
2013

• Youth Programming
  - Two Youth Leadership Summits
  - Making Proud Choices (sexuality education)
  - GirlsFirst
  - Safe Relationships Safe Places
  - Parents Matter

• Funding
  - $5,000 Steigleder Charitable Trust
  - $2,633 Miracle on Canal Street
  - $15,000 Morgan Stanley
  - $35,000 Luedke Smith Fund
  - $44,000 United Way
Questions?
Current Youth Leadership Program

• Youth Programming
  – Two youth leadership summits
  – GirlsFirst (four times per year)
  – Making Proud Choices (sexuality education)
  – Parents Matter
  – Safe Relationships Safe Places

• Funding
  – $48,000 United Way
  – $2500 Doerr Charitable Trust
The proof is in the numbers

- Between 2004 and 2013, the number of consumers under 19 years old grew from less than 10% to 25%
- Between 2004 and 2013, the number of consumers with cognitive disabilities grew from less than 5% to 20%
- The Youth Leadership Specialist has served a total of 500 + consumers during a work year
- Programs such as Girls First and sexuality education classes have held waiting lists as long as 2 years
Growing a program piece by piece

- Youth Leadership Summit
- Disability Mentoring Day
- Girls*First* support groups
- Person Centered Planning
- Transition Series
- Healthy Relationships and Sexuality
  - Boundaries and Personal space
  - Safe Relationships Safe Places
  - Sexuality Education
  - Parents Matter
  - Making Proud Choices
Youth Leadership Summit

- 60 applicants the first year, 40 youth turned away
- After 2 years IF added the second youth summit and accepted all applicants into the program
- Added a musical component with the Figureheads
- 10 year collaboration with WI FACETS for the program
- 2-4 Volunteers, 20-25 youth & 2-4 staff in each Summit
- Summit includes: Bus tickets, breakfast & lunch, $100 stipend, Learning: IL skills, disability awareness, healthy relationships, college & employment, conflict resolution, money management, self-advocacy
GirlsFirst

- Youth Specialist attended 2 trainings to facilitate
  - Access Living Chicago-Empowered FeFes
  - Girls Circle Association
- 2-3 groups held throughout school year in elementary, middle and high schools
- 1 group held in the summer at IF for girls 8-18
- Boyz2Men added as a boys support group in 2013
- Girls meet once weekly, pick topics for discussion and create something (craft, writing, music, artwork) each session
- Heart of the Matter added as a mother/daughter support group
Disability Mentoring Day

• International event held on the 3rd Wednesday in October
• Sponsored by the AAPD (American Association of Persons with Disabilities)
  – Provide technical support and training opportunities
• Youth learn skills and information about careers/jobs in their interest area
• Employers learn the opportunities involved in hiring a person with a disability
• Youth spend 1 hour to a full day job shadowing someone in their field of interest
Person Centered Planning and Transition Series

- **Person Centered Planning**
  - ½ day event based on the IEP experience
  - Youth does the inviting and youth is asked each planning question first
  - Asks youth to think about their dreams without boundaries and then imagine a positive, possible future

- **Transition Series**
  - Held three nights in fall and spring to cover specific transition topics
  - 2 hour event with guest speakers
  - Youth, families and service providers invited
  - Snacks and beverages served
Healthy Relationships/Sexuality

• Boundaries and personal space saw a need for more information
• Safe Relationships Safe places filled that need
• Sexuality content of SRSP classes showed that youth did not have this background information (about puberty, dating or sex)
• Sexuality education classes per request
• Parents Matter!
• Making Proud Choices
Questions?
Other programs serving youth

• Sports and Recreation Program
  – Adaptive skiing
  – Wheelchair soccer, hockey, basketball and rugby
  – Biking Buddies
• Peer Support Program
  – Peer Power
• Independent Living Skills Training
• Benefits and Employment Program
• Accessibility Consultations
  – AT Demos and Loans
Other Funding

• Sports and Recreation program
  – Christopher Reeve Foundation
    • Equipment
  – Greater Milwaukee Foundation-Luedke Smith Fund
    • Biking Buddies
    • Other Independent Living Programs
  – Milwaukee Public Schools
    • Basketball
      – Competitive Team
      – Prep team
  – CRV Pharmacy

• Peer Support
  – Peer Power (Independent Living Council of Wisconsin)
Funding and growing a program

- Where to look for funding
  - City and County Block Grants
  - State Departments
    - Children and Family Services
    - Health and Family Services
    - Department of Education
  - Giving Campaigns (i.e. United Way)
  - Local corporations and foundations
  - Individual Giving
Making Yourself Fundable

- Finding funding opportunities for specific programs/populations
- Willingness to make your own investment
- Having a replicable program
- Demonstration that your work will continue after the grant period has ended
- Working in coalitions
  - Shows collaborations between two (or more) organizations
  - Proves that you are not duplicating services
  - Organizations sharing the wealth and working together
Outreach: Getting people to your program

• Attending meetings of disability organizations
  - Specific disability org, coalitions and groups like People First, The ARC, etc…

• Attending meetings at school systems
  - Social workers or special ed staff meetings

• Offering to speak at schools
  - Call the special ed supervisor or transition coordinator
  - Go into classrooms and talk about programs/give a sample workshop

• When funding is available, offering incentives
  - Raffle prizes for attendees
  - Stipends for travel or time
  - Food!!!!!
Keeping people at your program

• Consumer driven
  - Hold planning sessions involving the consumers
  - Give out surveys and LISTEN to the results

• Leadership Roles
  - Offering leadership roles to people who are repeating attendance

• Make it fun
  - Games, interactive activities, breaks, snacks, prizes

• Involve families

• Repeat performers
  - Ask people to a panel of experts
Another way to connect: Social Media

- Facebook page for your program
- Twitter Account
- Instagram account
- YouTube channel
- Pinterest account
- Linked in
- Keeping a blog
Utilizing Volunteers

• Volunteers love to help out with specific tasks, especially when they feel they’re making a difference
• Even with a small staff-base volunteers can help make a program work
• Reward volunteers with recognition awards, invites to agency events and just verbal thanks
• Volunteers can
  – Help with reading and writing
  – Facilitate games
  – Be a chaperone on an outing
  – Present their own session at a workshop
  – Assist with accommodation needs
Collaboration

• Collaborations are attractive to funders but also can help you make your program more accessible
• You can take your expertise to another organization and they can bring theirs to you in kind!
• Allows for more than one person running a program
  – More adults in the room with youth
  – Dividing work duties
  – Dividing funding opportunities
Wrap up

• Youth programming, opportunities for youth leadership and events for young people are attractive to both consumers and funders

• Even in a small CIL without a grant writer or a PR team, you can grow a program, look for funding and write reports

• IL is about people doing the things they want to do with their own lives—hold that philosophy close even with staff

• Have faith!
Questions?
Contact

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Wrap Up and Evaluation

Please *click the link below* to complete your evaluation of this program:

https://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/12291g56a9b
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