

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

September 30, 2014

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

Presenter:

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IndependenceFirst

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

- Independence *First* 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
 - Independence *First* 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 LEADERSHP PROGRAM IS NOW FULLY FUNDED

2009

- Youth Programming
 - Two Youth Leadership Summits
 - Girls*First* (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
 - Girls*First* (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
 - Girls*First* (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
 - Girls*First* (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
 - \$15,00 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 *GirlsFirst* 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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