NCIL-NCIL Regional IL Showcase-(Ai-Live to Zoom) (USNCIL2601B - Ai-Live Premium)

Electronic voice: Recording in progress.   
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JENNY SICHEL: Hello everyone.   
We will give it a couple of seconds to let our attendee field populate a bit....   
Okay. I'm going to share my screen as well.   
Looks like people are still coming in, so I'll give it another second or two; and, I have and left the chat open for this session, but please, just remember:   
We would be appreciative if you mostly put questions, in the chat.   
Rather than kind of back and forth.   
Okay, and Darrell, I'm going to have you actually take your camera off really quickly.   
(After a pause), awesome.   
Okay!   
Well, hello, everybody.   
My name is Jenny Sichel.   
And I am the Operations Director at the National Council on Independent Living.   
I want to welcome you-all, to our regional independent living showcase!   
Today, we are featuring Region 5, which represents Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin; and region 6, which represents Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.   
To give you a brief on myself:   
I am a white female with curly-brown hair, and, I am currently wearing a maroon sweater.   
I use she/her pronouns, and to go over a few housekeeping details:   
Captions are available on this webinar.   
.   
Click "show subtitle" in your Zoom menu bar to turn them on.   
We also have captions running at AI-media but the URL is a little too long to read, so I will be putting the caption URL in the chatbox, As soon as I finish.   
This.   
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(After a pause), AI-media will allow you to enlarge the font and change the color and contrast of the captioning.   
ASL Interpreters, are also present today. And will be for all of the regional rep showcases.   
We are presenting in gallery view; so the interpreters should always be visible.   
Please let me know, if you cannot see the interpreters, and you can do that, private-messaging me in the chat or in the Q&A section.   
You do not need to be on Zoom video to access this webinar.   
We will read all slide content and all questions out loud so that everything will be available, to individuals calling in on the phone, or who cannot see visual content.   
(After a pause), speak- -- so, if you do want to ask questions, there are a couple options available to you:   
We will hopefully be answering them at the end of everything, as time permits.   
One option, would be, if you are on Zoom, you can simply type your question into the Zoom Q&A tab.   
you're also welcome, to e-mail your questions to me, jenny, JENNY@NCIL.org.   
Finally, if you're on the telephone today, you can push star 9 to indicate that you have a question.   
We do ask that if you are speaking a question, you limit the question to no more than 30 seconds.   
(After a pause), please, also, note that as I mentioned above, we do have time constraints and so there may not be enough time to get to everyone's questions.   
Finally, nearing the end of each session, I will put a link to an Evaluation in the chatbox.   
So, hopefully, these accessibility and logistic tips have been helpful for you.   
And, now, I'm going to hand it over, to our interim Executive Director, Darrell Jones, and, Darrell, I know I said that I would do the objectives, but do you want to take them over?   
>> DARRELL JONES:   
Sure, yes.   
I always have trouble with the mute button.   
Hi, everybody, We're so glad, that you could join us here today.   
We just would like to remind you, why NCIL has started doing these regional forums.   
We, hope that, you, will have an opportunity to meet your region's representative on the National Level; and, learn more about their role in informing you of current IL issues and assisting you in networking.   
We hope that you will discover what other CILs and SILCs, are accomplishing that might be of use for your own programs, and local efforts.   
We want you, all, to start sharing what your CIL or SILC has recently accomplished to boost the momentum of your peers, and we hope that you will learn how you can support the National Effort.   
To advance Independent Living and why a National Network is so critical, to the success of your local, state, and regional work.  
What we do together makes us so much stronger.   
>> (After a pause), in accomplishing all of our local goals; so welcome, everyone!   
>> DARRELL JONES: Thanks, jenny!   
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>> Jenny Sichel.   
Thank you, Darrell, so I will just go over today's Agenda quickly -- and Darrell, I'm going to have you turn off your camera -- yeah, you got it, you know the drill.   
So for today's agenda we're going to do welcome and introductions, you just heard from Darrell Jones, our interim Executive Director, who will actually be, leaving NCIL, next week.   
So, we're kind of sad about that.   
But we're excited to welcome our new Executive Director in.   
Next Wednesday.   
So, we have Steve Higgins, who is, region 1 representative, and at NCIL, and also, Chair of the Regional Reps committee.   
John Herring, who is region 5 representative at NCIL, and Samantha Moreno who is region 6 representative for our facilitators today, and so now, I am going to hand it over to our region 1 rep, and chair, Steve Higgins!   
Steve, you want to come on?   
[APPLAUSE]  
>> STEVE HIGGINS:   
Thanks, Jenny, it's exciting to be here today, everyone.   
I'm Steve Higgins, as Jenny mentioned, and I'm the region 1 rep here for NCIL.   
I am, a man in his late -- late 50s, early 60s now, oh, no!   
With graying hair, today I'm wearing glasses, I have a gray vest and a blue plaid shirt on.   
I use the pronouns, he/him, we're really excited to have you joining us in these regional showcases.   
NCIL has 10 regions, and currently two of those regions, are open; but our region reps for -- across the country, currently, are myself, in region 1, which is up in the New England area; and then we have Region 2, IcM.   
Karen, Region 3, I failed to mention that Erin is at the independent living center of the Hudson valley.   
We have, Mari, who is at the disability Rights and Resource Center, in region 4, we're really excited that you guys are going to be meeting John Herring, and Samantha Moreno, today.   
Currently, region 7, and 8, are open, In region 9, which is out in California, and -- and in the west in that area, we have Lisa Hayes at Rolling Start, and in the Pacific northwest in region 10, up to Alaska we have Kimberly Meck at the Alliance for People with Disabilities, we're really excited that you're joining us here for the regional rep -- our regional showcase.   
Our regional showcase came as an idea, and I really just want to say a thank you in talking about it.   
My thank you is to Darrell.   
Darrell is -- is our interim Executive Director, And as Jenny said, Darrell is going to be moving to do some other really cool things and she has worked with us, in the past year or so, guiding NCIL, in a really positive and powerful way.   
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And we talked back -- back last year, we started talking about how, can we show the good things that Independent Living Centers are doing and that NCIL is doing?   
And we -- we started with this idea of regional showcases and where we were; how the regional showcases are working -- is we're pairing two of our regional reps for each of the showcases, as they happen.   
And generally, we have one rep that might be newer and another rep that's been around for a little while a year or 2 and this gives everyone an opportunity to not only meet our region reps, but for each of those region reps to share a little bit from one or two of the organizations within their region, (an electronic tone), or region reps are doing a lot of really cool and interesting things right now.   
Each of them are working towards developing regional leadership groups, if that's something that you're interested in, please reach out to your regional rep, and ask about finding how you can participate in that And as NCIL works on our new strategic plan, the region reps are key, to making sure that information and opportunities get out to our network of centers, and that will include, things like, the advocacy efforts of NCIL That we're working on --   
You'll be hearing a lot about things like 5 for 5 in the near future and the many opportunities that all of us have, as we start to begin talking about specific things, like, the Appropriations Bills, and, you know, all the things that are happening, in the new -- in the current new Congress.   
So we appreciate each of you, we're excited that you're here, with us today, .   
And I'm not going to take up anymore time.   
And what I am going to do, is I am going to pass this over --....   
To Samantha, and Samantha is going to be doing our next intro, so Samantha Moreno, take it away!   
>> SAMANTHA MORENO:   
Thank you so much.   
-- okay.   
So, I'm Samantha Moreno, for a visual description: I am an American woman with dark brown shoulder length hair, I'm wearing a Black shirt and maroon glasses, like, -- Darrell was saying, I am region -- region rep for region 6, and that's, again, that is Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.   
And, I'm also, an Independent Living Counselor, in Norman Oklahoma.   
So in becoming a region rep, has just been a really great way for me to get to know, the NCIL Family.   
And that was one of my goals, of region rep, too, is just to, promote that feeling of community.   
Among the members.   
And, and by the looks of it by the participant number, it's not going to be difficult for me to do that.   
It looks like we're not failing on that part.   
Because, like, Darrell said we're so much stronger together, and, so much more effective when we communicate and share ideas, with each other.   
I also, you know, understand that, we -- we really get into this field, to get recognition.   
So, it's really awesome, to have this platform this opportunity to have these kind of events where we can spotlight each other and just show the work that we're doing.   
And, just lift each other up, and this is not, in any way--   
point being that, you know, we're just not doing enough, because I think we already feel like that all the time.   
It's just a way to lift each other up, and show, how much we really are doing and what a good job, we're doing, in our Centers and in our agencies.   
So I'm very happy, to be able to introduce Amy Tweedle, Amy is a health and wellness Advocate.   
At spa area independent living services in Hot Springs, Arkansas, she's also one of NCIL's members at large, so if you have any questions about that, she would be a really good person to get her experience about that.   
Position.   
She's also been working on a very inclusive, and really innovative program that, she would like to share with everybody.   
So....   
Take it away, Amy   
>> AMY TWEEDLE:   
hello everyone, my name is Amy Tweedle, I am the codirector, and, health and wellness advocate at Spa Area Independent Living Services, in Hot Springs, Arkansas.   
I am a white woman, with very pale skin, and I have my hair --  
I have Black hair pulled back into two braids, and tied into a bun, in the back.   
I'm sitting in front of a brown brick wall.   
And my pronouns are she/her.   
>> AMY TWEEDLE: So today, I'm going to share with you guys a couple of the new, newer services and programs, that we are providing here at our CIL, in Hot Springs.   
That includes, some services for those experiencing homelessness, and health and wellness services and kind of how those tie in, and work with each other.   
So last year, we had an opportunity, to submit a proposal for a building under the Federal Property Management through the McKinney Vinto Act, in order to obtain that building, we were asked to increase services, for those experiencing homelessness.   
Which is something we had been thinking about, and wanting to do, for a long time.   
. You know, studies show, that, at least 80% of people experiencing homelessness, have a disability.  
So we really wanted to find out, in our community, what services were lacking for those experiencing homelessness.   
What services weren't being provided here.   
We kind of wanted to, fill in those gaps.   
So we talked to the community.   
Did a bunch of research.   
And -- and found some things out.   
So some of the services that we provide, now that we have this building and this space to do so --   
Are, we've got showers, We've got two showers right now.  
So people, can come in and take showers, every day, Monday through Friday, when we're here.  
We have washers and dryers, so they can come, and wash their clothes, and have clean clothes.  
-- we meet them where they are, and work with them, on setting goals, and -- and kind of breaking those -- those goals down into small, digestible action steps that they can take.  
A lot of people, it starts with documentation.   
So we help them get their I.D.'s.   
Social Security Cards, birth certificates, and kind of start there, and then whatever their goals may be, start working towards that.   
You know, -- the big goal is usually, transitioning off the streets, and getting into housing.   
So we work with them, in those areas.   
To find affordable housing.   
To obtain housing assistance.   
Job-training.   
and things like that.   
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We also provide -- we've got bus tickets that we can give out.   
If they're needing to go to appointments or to go get their documentation, job interviews.   
Things like that.   
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So with the health and wellness, I became a certified health and wellness coach.   
So, I do -- I can do one-on-one coaching with individuals, and we also offer group classes.   
On things like nutrition, stress management.   
mindfulness.   
Breathing techniques and exercises, that can help ease stress and anxiety.   
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Things like that .   
Again, we work, with individuals on setting goals, Overcoming obstacles, creating action plans.   
To get them where they want to be, to live independently with services and supports in the community.   
I also work with individuals to get them setup with therapists and other professionals that will -- that accept their insurance or the ones that will work with individuals that don't have any insurance.   
So, these services really tie-in together.   
I also work with people on self-care.   
Which is very, very important.   
So, it's been proven very beneficial, and we're really happy that we're able to provide these services.   
We also do tying into the health and wellness, we have a weekly, virtual mental health support group every Tuesday, it's called "Talk about it Tuesday", we do that on Zoom.   
We started that two years ago, in 2021.   
You know, we -- we really saw the need for that during the pandemic when isolation was kind of a big thing.   
And, we just really wanted a way for people to be connected, and have a space to come and talk.   
And share and we also offer a little trainings, on stress management, and mindfulness, things like that.   
We always end those little meetings with a breathing exercise, and a short, guided meditation, that's totally optional for anyone who wants to do it.   
So that's been going on for almost -- yeah, two years now, and it's been proven very beneficial.   
So, we're really excited to offer these services.   
And I'm really happy to have the opportunity to share this all with you today.   
>> AMY TWEEDLE: And I'm happy to answer any questions and you can reach out to me by e-mail, if you have any questions, and thank you, all, again, so much for giving me this opportunity to share this with you-all.   
And I am going to pass it over to John Herring, who is the Region 5 rep.   
(Concludes remarks),   
>> John Herring:   
Good afternoon.   
My name is John Herring.   
I am an African-American male, (Pause), with glasses on, in my early 60s.   
Sitting in my living -- at the time short to no hair.   
And I'm just happy to be here.   
This afternoon.   
I'm here to introduce, Candace Coleman.   
I am the Executive Director of the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living.   
Illinois has 22 centers of independent living, and Candace is at one of our centers, she works in Access Living in Chicago and Candace is a Black disabled woman from the south side of Chicago.   
She works closely, with disabled people affected by the justice system, To organize around racial justice, and disability.   
This work includes antibullying, the school-to-prison-pipeline, restorative justice, police brutality -- and deinstitutionalization.   
She is dedicated to teaching disabled people of color, to take pride in all aspects of their identities.   
So they can become leaders themselves.   
Her most notable work, involves organizing around mental and behavioral health, emergency responses.   
Today, she's going to talk about the CESSA program and was very instrumental in getting it passed in 2021.   
So, Candace, it's on you.   
Candace Coleman: Thanks John, my name is Candace Coleman as John said, I am an African-American woman, wearing a white turtleneck, I have braids in my hair.   
That are curly.   
With three different colors of blond, red, and Black, and my background, is the Access Living logo.   
And as John said, we're based in Chicago, Illinois.   
And I organize a community organizing work called Advance your Leadership Power, we are the Thought Leaders behind the Community Emergency Services Act, also known as the CESSA act, and Stephon Watson act.   
It is a statewide bill that mandates that when people are in a mental or behavioral health crisis, we have options to other supports, that don't include police.   
And particularly if it's not a criminal situation.   
So what the CESSA Act does is it mandates that our 911 centers connect with 988 to dispatch, mobile crisis unit, services, and supports.   
And mandates that the 11 emergency regional committees, actually, create a mental and behavioral health care plan with emergency response, community organizations, And service providers, as well as Advocates, In the mental health community.   
To have a plan, so it's not, like, a guessing game as to where to send people, when they're in a crisis.   
And then the third thing, that it does is it mandates that the state collects data that's reflective of disability that expands the definition of mental health because people who need emergency response services, don't necessarily always have a mental health condition, but they may have other disability types.   
Such as being on the Autism Spectrum, or any other behavioral health disability that are not accurately-collected in the data that is currently used, when someone is in a crisis.   
>> CANDACE COLEMAN: We started this journey of this legislation, almost nine years ago, We were at a pivotal point politically, in Chicago, Where, 11 mental health clinics were closed.   
And we were finding that, as we were doing the work on the police, interactions and people with disabilities, a lot of people, who were arrested and sent to jail were those who were having a mental health crisis, and we did -- we just thought it was just ridiculous and it put people's lives (pause), in danger, if we continued to have... people become criminalized due to them having a mental health crisis; and so, AYLP members who were from the south and west side of Chicago, really looked at the landscape, as to why the point of reference for people who are in crisis, was to be pushed into The jail system, and what we discovered there were a lack of services and supports in the areas on the south and the west side, and so the default response was, the jail system.   
And so, during that time, was right before the beginning of the Blacklivesmatter Movement and so as we were looking at the data, there was also a lot of police interactions, and, negative situations, where people were harmed, hurt, or killed, and so, AYLP decided that they were tired of counting data, that had, very life-threatening outcomes, and tried to figure out a way, where we can, ....   
Influence a system that would be more supportive, instead of causing more harm.   
And so, we tracked the 911 calls, And decided that this was one of the ways, not even the best way, but one of the ways that we could intersect people having to go into jail or prison, and to make sure that we have more resources, outside of the jail system, for mental health rehab and mental health care, instead of inside of it.   
>> CANDACE COLEMAN: And so AYLP really went on a journey of building a coalition, both within Access Living, and outside of Access Living that had various expertise to assist, us in developing what is now, known as the CESSA act and so what that looked like, was us talking to Community Partners, among various affiliate organizations, community partners on the national level, as well as the local level.   
Making sure That our language was inclusive of all disability types, as much as possible.   
Looking at why our services, and supports were set up the way that they were on a Policy level; and so we were able to research how the 911 center actually worked.   
We were able to get local community organizations, both disability, and nondisability, to really support, and stand behind this idea.   
We had community workshops, and listening sessions on various sides of town, in Chicago.   
As well as across the state.   
And so, once the emergence of the # Blacklivesmatter Movement happened, it even highlighted more on a national level why something like this is important.   
Because a lot of the victims who were highlighted in various parts of the country, also had disabilities; and were also being harmed, due to police interaction.   
And so, we organized, disability awareness training, because we noticed that weren't telling the disability story.   
We were able to connect with organizations, that had lobbying power.   
(After a pause), we did a lot of visits, back and forth, to Springfield, which is our state capital to make sure that our Legislators met with us, having the conversations, and saw who we are, because we are a cross-disability group.   
So we wanted to make sure we led with that identity.   
And then, for years we drafted -- redrafted, we initially submitted one version of the Legislation, and then had to resubmit another.   
And I think what was on our side, the most, actually, happened during the pandemic, which, forced everyone to be able to communicate via virtually, and so we were able to talk to even more people that way; both as a part of the community, that this Legislation would impact; but also, We were able to talk to more of our state Representatives.   
We were able to connect with our other Centers for Independent Living, across the state of Illinois.   
And we were able to build that support, legislator by legislator, with votes, And hearings, And people really letting us know in their area, how this legislation would impact them.   
And so, we organized that for about....   
(A pause)   
>> CANDACE COLEMAN: The legislative portion, for about three years.   
And so, that really allowed us to get to know our Legislators, and those who were in political power.   
One of the things, I think people don't know about the state of Illinois is that we transitioned Mayors, we transitioned the Governor; and so we had a different political landscape when CESSA actually...  
was able to get voted on.   
And when it was actually signed into Law, under JB Pritzker, that actually happened.   
In August of 20 -- 2021.   
And so, we have been working, diligently, with the Department of Mental Health, to do the implementation part, as the 988 suicide hotline has been rolled out.   
And so in about six months, from today, we'll be at the implementation portion of CESSA, and how it's going to be implemented in the state of Illinois.   
(A series of electronic tones) I'll stop there.   
(Concludes remarks), STEVE HIGGINS: Thank you, Candace!   
It's exciting, really, to hear our presentations today, Jenny, you might be able to help me on this one, because I know we had a couple of questions that came up in the chat; and, I want to make sure that those have been answered.   
And, then, we can open it up, if there's other questions, and, we'll share a little bit more about what we're doing as regional reps and head from there; so, Jenny, I pass it back to you, wow I -- your name there   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Great, it was nice, I like that name.   
Yeah, I actually didn't see any in the chat.   
But there was one question in the Q&A that, Amy, I'm actually going to have you answer out loud for everybody.   
But, this question -- and that was from Tom, and he wanted to know, what groups do you collaborate with?   
And do you work on food meal distribution?   
So Amy, I'm going to have you come on and just kind of discuss a little bit about that.   
If you would.   
>> AMY TWEEDLE:   
Hello, again!   
Tom I'm so glad you asked this question, because I totally forgot to mention this part.   
I had someone knocking on the window, so I was getting a little distracted.   
I apologize for that.   
So, thank you, Tom for asking that question.   
So, yes, we -- we work with the Housing Authority, the food banks here in town.   
Other nonprofits, in our community.   
That are also working with individuals experiencing homelessness.   
We offer warm breakfast here at our CIL every morning.   
And we have a snack-pack-pantry, so we've got a food pantry with, like, snack-type foods, things take they can with them, beef jerky granola bars, tuna, little cracker packs and things like that.   
And we make little snack packs for people, and get those out.   
We also refer everyone to the other food pantries and places, in our community that offer lunch and dinner because what wasn't being offered anywhere, was breakfast, so that's why we started that.   
>> AMY TWEEDLE: And Kelly's Kitchen, thank you, Kelly's Kitchen has given us a couple of small grants to help us start our food pantry and we're superexcited about that and thank you, Tom for asking that question   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Amy, I'm going to have you stay on, don't go anyplace!   
>> AMY TWEEDLE: Sorry   
>> JENNY SICHEL: No, it's okay, we just have a couple of questions, Gloria, asked did you say this is funded through the McKinney Vinto, act, and Mark asked, could you please explain your McKinney Vinto status   
>> AMY TWEEDLE: It's not funded through the act.   
The building became available under the McKinney Vinto Act which ensures protections for --  
individuals, experiencing homelessness.   
So, the funding that became available to us, was, through this building.   
We -- it was offered to us, at no cost; so, that freed up a lot of funding, for us, to be able to offer these services.   
I hope that answers that question   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Yeah, I think it does, and then we also have the question, could you please explain your McKinney Vinto --   
>> I'm sorry what was that   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Could you explain your McKinney Vinto steps.   
>> I'm not sure I understand that question, I'm going to let my Executive Director answer this one, if you -- if that's okay, she's right here   
>>, yeah,   
>> AMY TWEEDLE: Okay, wonderful.   
Executive Director: I'm Brenda S., the Executive Director.   
So this building, was an old Social Security office; so, of course, it's a -- it's a building that was owned by the Federal Government.   
So it's been sitting empty, for, like, a year and a half.   
So, they they opened it up for, like, proposals for what the building could be used for.   
Under the McKinney Vento, act, and, of course, the McKinney vento Act is to help people, who are homeless, so we had been, Helping, the homeless community Before we got the building.   
In a very limited way.   
You know, we could -- but, this building provided us the opportunity to, Increase those services.   
And so it was a proposal, That....   
-- that several agencies in town, submitted a proposal, for the building, and, we were lucky enough to get it; So, you know -- to get the building, for free, that freed up money that we had been spending, in rent, which, you know, a lot of times, is one of your highest expenses.   
Is rent.   
so, that's how we got the building.   
>> JENNY SICHEL: That is so interesting.   
And pretty cool, too.   
>> Executive Director: Yeah, yeah, okay, I'm going to get --   
let Amy get back here.   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Great, thank you for that explanation!   
Awesome.   
So the next question, Candace, I see that you're actually typing an answer but I'm going to have you answer it out loud, too, if that works for you, so next question is for Candace.   
This question -- is, from Tom, and he wants to know, what services does Access Living have for mental health trauma and prison reentry?   
And then what services and programs should CILs develop?   
>> CANDACE COLEMAN: So right now -- good question, Tom, we do have an reentry and diversion policy analyst, his name is Chris Huff, and what he's doing like now is looking at policies and procedures during the reentry process and CSM -- how it impacts procedurally, decision-making on what those services and supports look like.  
So we don't have any direct-services yet.   
We're still in discovery mode on what that looks like, particularly for centers for independent living but we are connected with a lot of reentry and diversion services that already provide those supports.   
And looking at the landscape, on how they support, people with disabilities.   
And so it's in the works but it's not, like, official just yet.   
But good question.   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Great, thank you so much, Candace!   
And if anybody has other questions, I don't see any other questions, right now, but if you do have questions, feel free to sort of put them in the Q&A, e-mail me, or, push star 9 on your touch-tone phone to ask the question verbally.   
Steve, I'll kind of let you chat a little bit, see if we've got anymore questions and we can wrap it up early if we don't   
>> STEVE HIGGINS: Sure, well, what I would like to do, is ask both Amy, and Candace, to provide us with their No. 1 tip.  
Candace, especially, you know, what would your tip be with working with legislators and groups.   
And Amy, what would your No. 1 tip be, with reaching out to the homeless population in your area?   
So, let's have Candace go first.  
>> Candace Coleman: My No. 1 tip is to really, really get to know, S your legislator.   
On a local level so visit their home office, let them come visit your organization, let them talk to your base of people.   
And let them hear about the issues, that's happening locally for people with disabilities, in your community.   
So they could have a point of reference, when it comes to people with disabilities, because, sometimes, legislators who don't have a clue as to what we deal with, on a -- (pause), A policy or political issue, Are able to make that connection when they meet people in their -- I guess, districts or areas.   
And they're able to, like, make that connection.   
Versus, if they're not able to do that.   
A lot of people have assumptions about what people with disabilities need, and (Interruption in audio), Trying to build as inclusive society.   
STEVE HIGGINS: Sorry about that.   
I forgot to unpress the mute button again.   
Thank you, Candace; and appreciate your tip; and, Amy, I'm going to pass it back to you, what would be your tip?   
>> AMY TWEEDLE:   
So, my tip would be first, building relationships.   
giving -- holding the space for them to share their stories with you.   
.   
Getting off of your map and onto theirs, meeting them, meeting them where they are. You know,?  
Because we all think we know what everyone needs.   
And we don't. You know, it's really important to get to know them, and meet them where they're at and start -- start small.   
Building those -- starting with breaking the goals down into really small, digestible action steps.   
That they're comfortable taking.  
It's just -- it's what we're learning as -- how important it is, to just really meet people.   
Exactly where they are, and just holding -- holding space for them to share.   
And get to know them.   
(A pause), Steve Higgins: Thank you so much.   
Well, everyone, we just would like to really -- today, say thank you to Amy, Candace, John, and Samantha, as we've learned a little bit about some of the great things that are happening around the country.   
Here with our Centers, I look down and I'm looking to see, there might be another question in the chat.   
And I'm going to go to that, before I go to my close.   
So we have another question, in the chat, and this comes from Tom.   
And it says "Candace, is anything like the Care courts or what the mayor of New York is doing with homelessness happening in Chicago?"   
>> CANDACE COLEMAN: Yes, there is such thing as Care Courts, we have mental health courts here, in Chicago, That diverts people from going to jail or prison, but provides mental behavioral health resources along their journey.   
To help to support the --   
getting help within the community.   
We can talk offline, and I can e-mail you some materials that they have.   
And there's actually a documentary about this process, Called....   
"Any Given Day" and so, we will talk offline, I can share those materials with you.   
(A pause), STEVE HIGGINS: Thanks Candace!   
Well, we hope everyone has enjoyed what we were able to share today.   
And, this is just really kind of a preview, there's a lot of great things happening in our centers around the country right now.   
And we have opportunities to share on a regular basis, with NCIL and our Network.   
Coming up this summer: Of course, we'll be having our NCIL Conference, and at our NCIL Conference we're expecting some really exciting workshops, which will go more into depth.   
Some of the topics and the things that we've heard about today, and it will be an opportunity to learn more about that.   
With that being said, we would like to welcome -- we have our new Executive Director, at NCIL, that's going to be starting next week on Wednesday, as Jenny mentioned and many of you saw the announcement that came out the other day, and if you didn't, Theo B. Is going to be joining NCIL as our new Executive Director.   
I think folks are going to be looking forward to meeting Theo and that opportunity will probably come sooner rather than later.   
He does a lot of things out there and he's actually comoderating another meeting, at the exact same time as this today; with folks from -- I believe -- NCD, national Council on Disability and that's pretty exciting!   
And once again, I would be remiss without saying thank you, to Darrell, Darrell has been a wonderful person, not only, to work with, but the joy, in everything that she brings in her work to NCIL has just been amazing; and this past year, working with Darrell, has been an absolute blast, and so, just saying thanks, Darrell, for all the work that you've done with us, and we know that you're going to be around, and, doing lots of good things With us over the years, to come.  
Jenny, I'm going to pass it back to you.   
In case there's anything else we need to wrap up.   
I know that you -- you do like all the magical Zoom things that I don't know how to do.   
I am not a wizard on that stuff!  
>> STEVE HIGGINS: (Laughing) so we're going to pass it back to you and see if there's anything else that you need to share, before we wrap this up.   
Thanks everybody!   
>> JENNY SICHEL: Thanks Steve, so much.   
I don't have much else to share.  
So, thank you, everybody for joining, and Darrell, I'm going to let you say one final good-bye before everybody leaves, Darrell you want to come on and say one final good-bye?   
>> DARRELL JONES: Okay, sure, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity, because, it is with mixed feelings that I am stepping down, as Executive Director.   
But I wanted to have a chance to thank everyone, who continues, every day, to carry the message of Independent Living and Disability Rights.   
I wanted to give a special shoutout to Steve Higgins.   
And to the regional representatives for this kind of work, that -- they all are doing and the efforts to keep getting this network closer-knit and more organized and sharing, so that we all can learn from each other.   
And everybody who's on the line with us, -- I don't know who's on the line, but I know --   
Independent Living Folks, and I know how much you-all do.   
And I want to thank you for the support that you have given to me.   
As Executive Director.   
Take care, everyone.   
I will be around, I'm not disappearing.   
But, again, thank you.   
Thanks everyone.   
Jenny?   
>> JENNY SICHEL:   
That's all, folks, have a good day.   
Thanks, Darrell!   
(Concludes remarks),

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