**Serving on Groups Drop-In Call**

**July 14, 2017**

**Participants:** Janice Schutz, Washington, Board Treasurer, Washington State Community Connectors, new Statewide Family Organization, just entering 2nd year of grant funding; Mercedes Rosa, Director of F2F @ FV-NJ; Ayo Bajomo, Executive Assistant, NCFPP @ SPAN-NJ; Diana Autin, Co-Director, NCFPP @ SPAN-NJ; Diane O’Connor, NYS Parent to Parent

**Updates:**

***Washington State Community Connectors:*** Training and offering TA to the family organizations across Washington State, helping them serve families directly; have completed a partial training to our Board and some other interested parties, the introductions and one unit; a family organization that was really struggling with their Board and was on the verge of collapse; went in and did a full training for them, 12 participants. It was a test run. It was a one-day training, after the first hour, they asked for the entire training, they didn’t want to miss anything! It was a little disorganized, would never let the group take charge that way again; they did get the information, but they missed out a lot by not doing the activities. Gave an opportunity to run through all the information. Is there an opportunity to go back in and do some of the activities with them? Trying to figure out how to do that. Our new grant funding was supposed to start July 1, just got the contract this past Monday. Putting together our schedule for the next 11.5 months, we hope to work more with the Board of that family organization. We have a little bit of siloing issue going on in our peer world; parent, youth and adult peers are separate from each other. We are trying to bring everyone together and do things together; there are activities for families and some of the adult peers are anti-family, feel that families should be separate from adult peers, but youth are okay with families and youth doing things together. There is a peer conference in August; I offered to do part of a presentation there, they barely even looked at it because it has the word “family” in the title. Our peer network is creating their own TA entity with their own Board. Janice wrote up a description saying how the training is useful for everyone who serves on groups. The Youth Leadership conference is coming up, this could be offered there. Diana will connect Janice with Staci Ringwald who did the training at her state’s Youth MOVE Conference, who could probably provide some information about how she “sold” it and the impact. Diana asked Janice to let us know how this fits in with their workplan; do three trainings a quarter in different regions on different topics, geared to what the groups in each area decide what they need. Go through and do a needs assessment and plan their training schedule based on that. Will be pulling all that together before the end of August. First planning meeting is July 31 with the Statewide Network. Thrilled that you will be offering it again at the FFCMH conference, to see the changes we made, for another for the extra learning support; whoever does go from our state, I will highly recommend that they go. It is much easier when you have more than one person trained in a training.

***Parent to Parent of NYS***: Still on target for the end of September to pilot the training with our offices around the state; really like the idea of including youth with their families in the training. With my children, I started early engaging them in advocacy including at state Town Hall meetings, I was there with them and could help and encourage them. There is a mental health group in our state that wants to do peer advocacy work with individuals with developmental disabilities, not understanding the need for support, especially for younger youth. Diana noted that we did have the modules reviewed by youth & young adult leaders from Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) and Kids As Self Advocates (KASA), who thought it was very good. Staci Ringwald did several modules at her statewide Youth MOVE conference; Diana has reached out to her to get feedback. Diane is using Survey Monkey, where you put things in order, what’s important, what’s not important; still playing around, may need to find another free platform to use. If Diane sends Diana an email about what she wants to do and what’s not working, we can get our tech people to identify a platform that may work.

***New Jersey***: Moving forward with our Statewide Summit on Leading by Convening, full day likely to be on October 3 at our NJ Department of Children and Families Professional Development Center. Will invite about 100 participants including representatives of all our state agencies that serve children and families as well as key “thought leaders” among their grantees across systems, from health, child behavioral health, early childhood, etc. The day will kick off with a panel of state agencies and major non-profits who are doing good work around diverse family engagement to talk about what they are doing, the accomplishments and benefits, the challenges and how they overcame them; then break out into workshops focusing on the various components of Leading by Convening, and ending with a session where participants develop action plans. Hopefully this will pave the way for the trained family leaders who have been and will be trained in Serving on Groups.

**Next Steps:**

* Diana to connect Janice Schutz with Staci Ringwald re: doing the workshops for youth.
* Diana to send an email to Janice & Diane regarding the role of Youth MOVE National and the NCFPP
* Next call: Friday, August 11, at 1 pm. Will start off with a brief presentation on evaluation, then the rest of the call will be for sharing, etc.