ROUGH EDITED COPY

APRIL

COVID-19 CHECK-IN

JUNE 11, 2020

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>> Never a dull moment folks.

I am muting some people and getting the PowerPoint set up

and we will get going in a few minutes.

Feel free to practice muting and unmuting at home.

You can press the CC button, the closed captioning, and to see the closed captioning.

And feel free to introduce yourself in the chat.

Folks, I am just getting lined up your.

If you don't mind just practicing muting and unmuting from home

to make sure you've got a handle on that.

It helps us keep down the background noise as we are getting going.

Feel free to introduce yourselves in the chat.

And we will get going in just a couple minutes here,

some people are still popping in.

Feel free to fill out the poll

if you get a chance.

Again if you could just practice

muting and unmuting from home, it helps us to come the background noise.

Again folks I am trying to find all of you and meet you.

If you don't mind muting and unmuting from home.

So feel free to introduce yourselves

and then we are going to get going.

I'm going to give folks about two more minutes,

we are just past the hour but we still have folks joining in,

we will get started at about 12:05,

feel free to pull up your chat and introduce yourself,

practice muting and unmuting from home and fill out our handy-dandy poll if you don't mind.

Again I am going to try to get folks muted.

All right, why don't we go ahead

And get started.

I am going to try to find his last person and mute them.

Okay, thanks everybody,

welcome again to our rule conversation community.

This is definitely becoming one of my favorite parts

of my week, getting to see all of your wonderful faces.

Again this is an opportunity

to try to build a community of support

around rural issues. This conversation community

is a service of the IL net national training and technical assistance Center,

a project of independent living research utilization,

and it is facilitated by APRIL,

the association of programs for rural independent living.

I am Mary Olson and I will be running the call with you today.

So again for those of you who might be new to our community,

you can turn on your WebCams so we can see and hear you,

and there was a tiny little video icon on the zoom,

you can press that button and you have all of the controls.

You can mute and unmute from home as well

with that little microphone there in your controls.

If you were on the phone with us today

you should be able to press star 6 to mute and unmute

or if you've got a mute function on your phone that is handy as well.

If you press captions those are available at this time.

And if you have any trouble at all feel free to either

shoot me a question in the chat box

or you can email me at Olson dot April at Gmail dot com

and I can open that up and try to help you the best I can.

For those of you who are just joining us

if you could fill out our poll,

it's just curiosity, we are wondering what is going on out there in CIL land.

A few guidelines as we go through this today,

please stay needed if you are not speaking, it keeps the distracting background noise down.

I will do the same because I got my family and my dog here and you don't want to hear that.

But we are building our community and getting to know one another

if you could say your name in your organization,

and your city and state that you are from

before you make your comment or ask your question, it helps

put perspective on who is here.

And let's just have some fun, give each other some kudos,

and remember an old idea or thought to you could be groundbreaking

to somebody else.

So if you are in doubt please share it.

We had a great call last week on an APRIL peer support call

about nursing home transition and that was wonderful,

the recording of that is on the APRIL website.

We have several of these Covid check-in IL net conversation meetings

and those are also recorded on our website if anybody is interested in those.

And with that it brings us to today's exciting topic,

the world of centers in COVID-19.

Today folks really wanted to focus in

on figuring out where everybody is at.

Are centers opening back up,

do you guys have guidelines you would be willing to share with others, what will it look like for you where you are.

We've also had lots of questions around the CARES funding

and how are you guys spending it.

Either creative ideas that you are doing that others can benefit from

and just in general checking in with everybody

seeing if you have any questions for your peers,

any problems you would like to workshop. Today is the space to do that.

With that I also want to mention

that we are recording today's call.

We like to make these available if anybody misses them

or sometimes you guys don't want to be seriously writing notes,

so today's call will be recorded just so you know

and you can access that by contacting me after the call.

Would anybody like to be the brave soul

who goes first to check in about

what does the world look like for you and your center right now.

>> Am I unmuted? This is Marilyn from new vistas in Santa Fe.

>> We can hear you, go ahead.

>> We got the word from our director this week,

they had to have a building inspector come in to do a new occupancy

so we knew what our occupancy was

because we are only at 25 percent occupancy in New Mexico right now.

So that turned out to be better than we hoped for.

We have about 20+ employees with contractors

so they told us it was 60

which means we can have 15 people in the building at any one time.

So that led our director to say starting next week

she asked us to pick a day we would like to be in the office.

We are still working from home and doing all kinds of virtual stuff online with consumers,

which is good because we will continue doing that, this is actually a good thing

that came out of all of this crazy stuff like teaching classes and stuff.

So I picked a day, we all picked our day,

so she can actually schedule and make sure there was only 15 people in the building at any one time.

We don't have to stay the whole day but it gets us back in the swing of things.

We have an early intervention component

which is a large part of our staff

which works from children zero up to three years old

and they have been doing telehealth and they will continue doing that,

but out of the CARES funds we are buying technology

because the cell phones we were using, the batteries kept dying.

They weren't built for this kind of constant barrage,

so BI getting tablets and a lot of things

that will put us in a good position to be able to work

with our rural counties, recovered nine counties beside Santa Fe

and they are all very rural, and more than 60 miles away each one.

And our class teaching, we are going to start with

Kendra, our youth coordinator,

who has been on a bunch of your calls, Kendra Garcia,

we are teaching the Montana classes

because two of them are already set up for online which is great,

so those will start at the end of June. We are advertising right now.

Then we have to do something with the working well because that is not online yet

so we will be figuring out how to do that, but she has already been advertising it,

it's on our website and Facebook page and all of that.

The guidelines are we wear a mask,

we wash our hands frequently, gloves aren't necessary,

keep a six foot distance, and today I met with a consumer in the parking lot

because he was in his car and he needed some paperwork

to show another agency and he could not find his and I had it,

so we copied it and we had a short meeting. But generally it is been by phone.

We are starting with the upgrade and then of course

we need monies to help people because they keep asking consumers is there something you need,

and I did listen to that IL net call on the ninth

that was offered with Paula Michele, that was very helpful.

That was good and I'm sure it's on the website.

>> Great, thanks Marilyn what a wonderful amount of information.

About the Montana classes she is talking about a healthy community living classes.

We talked about how the university of Montana folks were giving away subscriptions

at the beginning of Covid so like to hear you will propose to use.

>> We actually purchased of those, before you started giving them away repurchase them.

>> That's perfect, great, thanks for sharing all of that.

Does anybody have questions for Marilyn or would anybody like to follow-up

with what are you guys doing?

>> This is Marianne from northern New York State, Watertown, New York

at Northern regional Center for Independent living.

And we have, very similar to what she just said,

about starting to bring people back in

and I have been here the whole time, I am in finance and

my small team has been here every day,

but we are bringing back people

one day a week.

And everybody has been working remotely,

we have had to really come up with some

quick ideas and getting the equipment

and we are purchasing new equipment, computers and services and things like that.

So people are not using their own computers at home.

Also we have been doing a lot of youth meetings

online with zoom

and we are getting groups together

working well with -- it used to be called working well with a disability,

but it's CVS MP, people with disabilities,

and staying well.

And we do not have consumers coming in yet.

But it may be in a month we will be.

So I think Marilyn who was just on,

getting people used to coming back into the office.

And we have started just recently using that

CARES money

to help families or anyone in distress

with light gas cards if they need that,

or diapers

or formula or anything that they need,

we have started using that money to provide

those things for those people.

That's just some of the things we are doing.

>> Thanks Marianne, I think that's great.

One of the reasons why we are asking what you guys are spending the money on

is we have heard from folks that

you don't know what you don't know, so it's nice to hear

what other people are using it on so you can think about what the possibilities are.

But thanks for sharing that.

Who else would like to go?

>> My name is Nancy, I am with the life center in Lubbock, Texas.

We have about 30 employees in two centers,

and we have usually a pretty robust

activity going on in our center and a lot of consumers who are there

on a daily basis, but we stopped activities in March

and then we have been working remotely.

We are planning on reopening in July, the beginning of July.

With staff that feel confident and comfortable coming back to work,

of course as a center some of our staff

have people with disabilities who have compromised immune systems

and they may not feel comfortable, and that is a choice they can make.

And we also have people who have children and since the schools aren't open,

we are allowing them to work from home.

We have been trying to make sure that our staff

is in contact with the consumers

to offer even if nothing else peer support

because they are isolated and they are not able to get out,

so peer support has been a big part of what we are doing.

We also make hygiene runs,

we have a hygiene closet so we make sure we can bring hygiene items

and when certain items were not available in schools,

we had some and we were able to make those deliveries.

We are coordinating with our local food bank

to make sure that we have vouchers available

and we are helping consumers to get food and energy assistance and things like that.

We will be coming back on 6 July

with a staff, my staff is very anxious to get back in the office.

I didn't think they would be but for the most part

they have been unanimous in saying yes, so we will have

PPE and we will have hand sanitizing stations

and people will be queried when they come in to see if they have any symptoms.

We still have some spiking going on here

and it's not like you have a New York, but we are try to keep it down as much as we can.

So we will have guards around the desks

and staff will have temperatures taken when they come in.

We probably will not be allowing consumers

for activities back into the center until August,

but we will be letting consumers come in.

We will probably designate office space

where we can meet a consumer in that office

and not have to have everybody sanitize their whole thing,

we can limit it to one office and then we can sanitize that one office over and over.

We actually brought a sanitizing machine and a couple of our staff

sanitized the entire building and our bus

and so we are trying to keep ahead of the game

and keep things as safe as we can for those who access our center and our staff.

>> Thanks Nancy, and do you mind me asking a follow-up,

did you say that the sanitizing machine was for your center and your bus?

>> Yes, we have a bus and it's on loan from one of our providers but it's got our name on it.

We use it for transportation for last resort transportation and activities.

>> Awesome, thanks for sharing.

>> Can I add something else?

It's Marianne again, just something that I think is really cool

is our IT department of one created an access station

that we have to attest do every morning when we arrive at work

saying pertinent questions about

have you been exposed, are you feeling well,

and those things you need to know. So we don't have to go in and sign something,

we do it right on our computers and somebody is gathering that information

to make sure that we are well

and have answered the pertinent questions.

It works out well for us.

>> Great, thank you.

Awesome, and I think I saw Priscilla, did you have a question or a follow-up?

>> Sorry, no, I am just jumping in.

I made it.

>> Great, great, thanks everybody for the info.

Does anybody have any questions for those who have gone

or who would like to go next talking about where you are at.

>> This is Rick in Augusta, we are a South Carolina combination.

We are interested in the bus, how did that come to be and how can we get one?

>> Well, for us Texas is huge

and there is a long way between any place you want to go.

So one of our rural providers

have a program and we have just -- we work with them closely,

we can provide trips.

Lubbock has a very nice bus system,

but there are limits as to how far they will go.

So working with them -- and to be honest I was not involved in the actual procurement process,

but we work with them and we make a report to them every month.

The bus is technically there's been we have been using it for about three years

and it's something that has helped us to be able to provide transportation

to our consumers who attend our activities

as well as our airport

is 10 miles out of town and so people with disabilities

who want to be able to come to the airport, they don't always have away.

Even our DMV where people can register

and go to get their license is out of town, out of the city limits

and the buses don't go there regularly. They make a trip occasionally.

So we can help provide some of those things.

It's not like a huge bus,

it's a small one that does not require

one of these special licenses.

>> That's nice to know.

I would like to contact you off-line because

we have a system here financed by the Council on aging

but they have surplus buses, so it may end up

that we can find a way to enter into an MOU or something

and have something happened there.

They are more readily funded

but they aren't able to be responsive, they want to be

but they are just not able to be. So that is an idea,

for us to contact them, so thank you.

>> You are welcome, and I can put my email

upon the -- in the chat thing there if you would like.

>> Great, I think that would be great, Nancy

if you don't mind putting your email in the chat.

This is exactly why I love these calls,

the organic way that peer support and connections happened.

Thanks for the info and the follow-up question.

With anybody else like to go, any questions you have for your peers

or if you would like to give comments on where you and your organization are at.

I'm scrolling through to see if I know anybody to call on.

>> This is Tanya, I will go.

I am from Independence first in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

We have a very high Covid rate

that has been increasing and decreasing,

so it's all very confusing. But we are all working remotely.

We are offering all of our classes virtually

so we were successful in

maintaining all of our high school classes virtually

until the school year ended.

Now we are offering our summer programming

through zoom and we are very excited.

We have a pretty high registration list already

so we are very excited to see the need and fill that void.

We are using the CARES money

for transportation needs, housing,

unemployment -- we have many consumers who were unsuccessful

at getting unemployment during the last couple of months,

so we are utilizing that CARES money

for rent and Internet and all of our areas.

>> Great, thank you.

I always forget about transportation.

What does that look like, do you by opossum vouchers for folks?

Or how are you using the money?

>> A couple of our inner-city consumers

have requested some of the bus passes because they had loss of income,

could not afford them. And some of our more remote areas,

we approved one of our consumers for an electric bike

because she could not have -- she was not on a bus line,

taxis are not working in our areas at the moment,

and she could not use a pedal bike.

So we were very excited to approve an electric bike for her needs.

>> Great, thank you for sharing.

I think that's a really cool creative way to help somebody out.

Great. Anybody else who would like to share

or have any follow-up questions?

>> I will share, this is Michele from the resource Center for disability solutions in Florida.

We have got four vans for transportation

and through most of the pandemic we have been delivering food boxes

that were provided by feeding Florida.

Our Covid funds, we spent them on technology,

updating in our office and purchasing iPads

for our consumers to use.

Our working policies, we have some people working in the office

and the ones that like working from home will continue to do so and they will probably continue that through July.

We have been using zoom a lot for support group meetings and trainings.

We have not spent a lot of the CARES funds yet

because we are still working out our policies. We are going to try to focus

on the housing needs in this area, there has been a lot in terms of low income housing

so we are going to develop a policy to help with deposits

and utilities, food, and that sort of thing for Covid related evictions

that are going to come up at the end of the month.

>> Thanks for sharing that.

When you guys come up with some of those policies

would you mind sharing those with me?

That would be great. Anytime we can get copies

of policies or programs, it's just nice to not have to re-create the wheel for other folks.

>> Exactly, yes, and I think a lot of our resources and ideas

as far as our policies have come from other places.

We compile it together and fit into our own needs.

Another thing we did is we bought the sanitizing stations

And the hand sanitizing stations, steam cleaners for office equipment and our vans.

>> Great.

I am curious about these sanitation equipment,

I am not looking into it as much as I should I think

but is it -- what is it that you buy?

Is it something you buy on Amazon or

is there a specialty company?

>> I really don't know where our Executive Director got

her ideas from. I have not seen them yet.

But they are supposed to be really cool,

they are things that you can use on your keyboards and screens and desktops

and then there was one for the van.

It's like fume again to the whole office and every surface but with steam.

It's going to be pretty neat and I'm looking forward to learning how to use them.

>> Great, let us know what you find out.

>> I wonder if it is anything similar

to what the airlines are using to sanitize the plane

after every trip, in Southwest I have watch them do it online

because I fly Southwest when I go, but that's interesting.

>> I bet you it is, they are supposed to be pretty easy to use

and they are portable so I am sure it's similar to that.

If we could use them on everybody's office and everybody's equipment

and use them on the vans they must be similar to what they use on the airplanes.

>> They were it like a shoulder thing and they walked down the aisle of the airline

and they sprayed the rate tables and seats and whatever they are using,

I don't know what is in it or if it has a smell which I am concerned about.

>> It's just a steam so it's like we will be Ghostbusters.

>> Great. Thank you for sharing.

How about others, does anybody have questions for their peers

or anybody would like to go next to talk about

what are some of the things you are doing, how are you getting ready to come back?

>> This is Rick again in South Carolina.

Options for independent living.

I am fairly new to this but I have sat in on a couple of the calls before.

We are doing something similar to what I have heard

will be on alternate staff

and we have moved to some of the desks around.

We are waiting for a particular piece of furniture

that will separate a consumer that may come into the lobby

before we allow consumers into the lobby,

but beginning next week we will be alternating.

That is a South Carolina site,

we have another Georgia site and there may be somebody on the call from our Georgia counterpart.

They have many more people in their buildings that we do.

So they are faced with other traffic problems.

But we don't expect to have consumers probably for another two weeks

to come into the office and even then it will just be one or possibly two at a time.

We had to relocate our front door in order to accommodate this.

>> Thanks Rick for sharing that.

And what about CARES funds, did you get CARES funding and what are you using it on?

>> We have done some with E technology.

I am not part of that, I just get little dribs and drabs.

The admin is handled primarily on the other side of the river, on the Georgia side.

One of our difficulties, and I'm going to the forms when this call started,

it's how much latitude do we have as to what is directly Covid related.

I have one example where a consumer

not known to us before was told to leave

the place where she was staying because

of Covid. There is no landlord relationship, they just said get out.

So this gal has been homeless and a few agencies are putting her up in a hotel.

I am going through our forms and local policies

to see if that is something that we can help with.

To meters directly Covid related.

Then we have another case where a family

in an upstairs apartment

had a tiff, possibly Covid related, it's hard to document that.

He fired a weapon, did not injure anybody but it set off the sprinklers.

So I have a number of people in the apartment complex that are vacated, thrown out

because the sprinklers went off. So I am trying to see

if I can relate that, do I have to have a police report --

nobody went to jail, it was a discharged firearm,

but there were things like that where I am hoping the program director here locally

can give us some guidance. My background before I joined Walton options

was a very heavy into the service network,

and in fact I presided over a number of monthly gatherings of different service providers.

It was more of a hobby than anything, so I am learning also how to formalize,

how to document what I have done for a long time

without documenting. I still have all of the connections and contacts

and I feel confident to be of assistance, but I am still learning

the red tape, the PPI kind of thing, or PII,

and so I am hoping to be up to full steam

and another couple of weeks.

The Covid has not interrupted with me specifically

even though I am in the elder age group.

I am blessed with extremely good health.

My disability is a finger injury from the military

so it's not particularly disabling with respect to my

being able to help others. So I am glad

to visit with the people and I feel like

I've got friends all over the nation.

>> Thanks for sharing, Rick.

Does anybody have any thoughts for Rick,

any answers on how others have used funding

to help with housing, CARES funding to help people find housing or get into housing?

>> This is Kathy from Northwest Georgia Center for Independent living.

We just don't have any, there is no housing available.

I mean, it's horrible.

It was worse before Covid.

I do believe it was worse before Covid.

But on the other hand,

with the CARES funding we have been able to help

a couple of people that needed ramps and some other small modifications to their homes.

So they could access them better demand that's a good thing.

>> That's great. Thanks Kathy.

So doing some hall modifications, operative other folks doing that as well.

>> Yes, a lot of it came down to --

it has fallen back on families now to take care of some folks,

so this is what they are doing. And it's hard to get mom and dad,

they didn't realize before but it's hard to get mom or dad or somebody else out of the house

when they weren’t having to do it, and now that they are having to do it

they realize how hard it is, what kind of work is involved in it.

It's been an eye-opener for a lot of people.

It's been an eye-opener for a lot of people here and

we have been working remotely.

I'm going to say it's been a good experience for us

because it got us out of the office and out in the mainstream a little bit.

So it's a two sided sort of thing, but we will try to go back next week.

We will be doing a lot of the things that Nancy and everybody else was saying,

the testing out or whatever.

And the assistant director is going in today

to be there with the people that are coming in

to disinfect the office.

So that was a hefty expense

that we were not counting on, but we are glad we've got CARES helping us with it.

It was almost $500 for them to come in and clean out the office,

to disinfect our little office.

It is what it is.

>> Hi, this is Kathy Kaye

and I'm the CEO of the league of human dignity.

We have three centers in Nebraska and they were actually standalone centers

and they all got rolled together, they aren't really satellites but that's a long story.

We had a meeting yesterday with some other independent living partners

and to address your question on housing, they had a good idea

and I thought I could share. We are not doing it so I can't give you specifics,

but it was with our region 7 nickel meeting that we had with our region,

and one person on one of the centers was working for Habitat for Humanity

using some of the Covid CARES funds to go in and rehab houses

so they would be accessible or even working.

That's an idea because I know that is one of the things they really want us

to be spending this Covid CARES money on is trying to get people out of the nursing facilities

or keep them from going in, so depending on how much Covid money you have

that might be an option. And to answer what you asked earlier,

we are still not open to the public but we have never --

we have been operating in our offices, we have not been operating from home.

But we have in our three offices in Nebraska and one office in Council Bluffs,

we have a center of independent living there in Iowa as well,

we are in the office but doing social distancing.

We wear masks when we leave our individual offices and we are sanitizing and cleaning.

We have no plans to be opening up as of yet.

We are providing all of our services remotely

and we are spending our CARES money on PPE, sanitizer, gloves,

antibacterial soap, masks,

that we are giving to people because we feel

to our IL consumers we feel it's really important in stopping the spread.

We think that wearing a mask is really important for the consumer

and for people that take care of other people in their house.

We are doing that and spending a lot of technology

because we have to provide services remotely

and I think we are all feeling that pinch and it's tough

and a lot of people didn't have

computer equipment with the cameras so we could do the zoom,

so we are buying those and we are probably spending the bulk of our money

on providing that equipment,

the technology, and also a lot of people didn't have Internet service

so they were going to buy the hotspot, like a burner phone so they can have a hotspot.

So that is how we are using our money. And thanks everybody for being on this,

it's really nice to hear all across the country, it's nice to hear you and especially you people in Texas,

that's where I'm from originally.

>> Awesome, thanks Kathy.

And Priscilla is wondering Kathy, if you don't mind, connecting with them.

And actually I was wondering

if I could ask you a follow-up question for those talking about updating their technology,

I have been asked by a couple of CILs how are you deciding

want to buy? Do you have IT staff

or are you getting recommendations from people?

How are you guys deciding

on what you are going to buy?

>> I can answer. For us we do have a person that works with us on IT,

but also each individual consumer and it depends on

how comfortable they are. We have been very lucky

in Nebraska, we got a very large amount of Covid money.

So we have been very lucky that way.

There is a computer that flips over to a tablet

and they are pretty pricey, I think they are about $800.

But that's going to be easy for people, we hope, to use.

We also were having to factor in on this cost of technology

the training component. How will we train people to use these

because that's an important IL training skill and how can we do it safely during Covid,

and we have not crossed that bridge yet.

Hopefully they will have like in my house a smart seven-year-old

that will help them work on things because that is who I go to, my children and grandchildren

because I am a little technology behind myself, I had not done zoom until Covid.

But we are going to preinstall zoom on computers

and have everything so they could go and click a button.

We also were working with Easter Seals in Iowa

to do some of the training component. We have not approached them yet in Nebraska,

we have not gotten to that point. But the other thing is

iPads are really pretty easy for people

if they just want to be doing face time, and that is another option.

So they don't need to have a keyboard and be typing,

that can work, and pre-programming phone number so it will be easier.

So right now we are starting with the computers that flip over into a tablet.

We may be switching to just tablets.

Were going to let people tell is what they are more comfortable with and what they want.

So if anybody has a better idea on what is an easy thing to use,

I love my iPad and it's easy to use and it's big enough

but when we are working with transition students

we feel like they believe that bigger computer.

I don't know if that helps but that's where we are at.

>> Thanks Kathy, I think that's great.

And I was wondering are you providing those

computers to consumers, are they theirs to keep or just to use during Covid?

>> Well, we were going to do a checkout program

but then recently I was told that with purchases made

technology with the Covid CARES Act and somebody tell me if I'm wrong,

I believe people can keep them and I see somebody nodding their head,

is that how you interpret the guidelines? I believe we can give them to them and not have to get them back.

We will start by calling it a loan program and not give them to them.

Be burner phones yes, we will give them those.

When the Covid money runs out, the CARES Act the money, when it runs out it runs out

and they won't have that Internet access anymore but those they don't have to give back.

But I believe we can let them keep that technology

and if I am interpreting wrong please somebody let me know.

But we will start out calling it a lending library type of thing

and I think that might be a good idea because

we might have more of -- we can't buy a computer for everybody

and the sky is not the limit, and some people,

their goals might be open, this is what we want, we want training on this

and then we close the goal so we don't need them to have that equipment.

So we are going to call it a lending library type of thing for now.

But I believe we can give it to people,

so if somebody says they need that to be able to work

and they need that to work I believe under this money we can give them that and not have to get it back.

Which makes sense because -- but it's the government and they don't always do things that make sense.

>> This is Rick in Walton options again.

We had that dilemma. I don't know if I final decision was made

but we decided pretty much to go with chrome books

because they are so much less expensive and in many of the schools interface with chrome books.

The difficulty is you can't do much unless you are connected to the Internet.

But those were more disposable at $175 or $200,

and $800 was one of the best prices we could find for iPads.

>> Great. I think this is a great discussion.

And Kathy, I will be honest,

I don't know the answer to your question.

I don't know if there are folks on the call who know.

I have not heard that you cannot give it to them but I don't really know.

I think one of the nice things about these conversations

is it's a good way to check in with other people.

I wanted to double back also on your idea you had

about onboarding consumers to the technology.

I think that's a really great point and it is something

I know we have been discussing over here.

At APRIL we work closely with some of the folks at RTC

who do that and they help the community living online curriculum that was mentioned earlier.

We have been talking about how do we orient consumers to the process.

Teaching them how to hide their self you if they want to,

talking about finding a space where they are not distracted

or maybe that they feel more confident showing people

or teaching them how to put up a virtual background.

I would love to learn more about that Kathy as you proceed

and if you have stuff you would like to share,

we would love to share it with others.

>> This is Beth James from [can't understand] in Jackson, Tennessee.

On the equipment one thing we have done particularly with consumers were Deaf,

some of them didn't have smart phones and they rely on

messenger and different things

and they rely on our interpreters to help them.

So we have done Kindle fires because they are only about

$70 or $80 and

it seems like a real reasonable cost and they can even keep them

and it helps them stay connected to their family too.

And it's a more reasonable cost for us.

>> Great, thank you.

>> And there is a zoom software, you can download zoom for Kindle.

So it's been a cheaper alternative for us, I will put it that way.

>> Thanks for sharing, that's great.

Anybody else want to talk about what they are doing

with technology and how they chose it

or what it looks like opening up?

Or what are the things you are doing with your CARES funding?

Last week we have an in-depth call about nursing home transition

and a lot of folks were using money for that from the CARES funding for that as well.

Others that would like to share?

>> Hi everyone, this is Leo Santos from [can't understand]

and that is the Northwest Colorado Center for independence.

We are located around Northwest Colorado.

We have a bunch of offices around here.

I am the youth peer coordinator in Summit County

and basically our supervisors told us

that we are free to start seeing consumers at our offices

but we have to make an appointment. Obviously no more than six people at the office.

50 percent capacity.

And everybody has to wear masks.

And then we have started seeing

those who have been willing to come out

and take a walk with us, hang out.

Businesses are starting to open a little bit

so consumers have been wanting to go out and get a bite to eat,

so some of us have been doing that.

Our CARES Act money was used

to update technology. We used it to update our telephones,

some laptops, computers,

things like that.

We do have

I was going to call them buses but they aren't buses, they are vans.

We have vans available for people because some of our consumers are located

out in the middle of nowhere and

they have no way to get to their doctor appointments and things like that.

So we have a couple of vans that was provided to us

by C dot, the funding was provided by C dot,

and for those that aren't familiar with that C not stands for --

>> The Colorado Department of transportation?

>> That's right, there we go.

Yes, that's what we used, they funded our vans.

I am very new to the company,

I have only been working for the company a couple of months.

Four or five months, but I have been a consumer for over two years.

So it's been a transition, having to stay at home

and calling consumers from home and making sure they have

their medications and they have food and access to food and stuff like that.

>> Great.

>> But right now everything seems to be going smoothly so far.

We are seeing some consumers,

some consumers are still very cautious and they don't want to come out of their house,

but some of them are willing and they are coming out.

And obviously when they come to our offices,

we pick a day when nobody comes in except for one person to clean the whole place.

Since our office isn't that big, it's big enough

for us to have consumers and keep it below six people.

>> Great, thanks Leo for sharing.

I am making a mental note for a future call,

when we are done with the Covid check-ins I think it would be great to hear,

I have heard from several centers now that have a partnership with the local department of transportation.

And they have their own transportation vehicles.

So that is something we will have to dig into in the future.

I am curious to hear more about that from folks.

>> It's great, I will give you guys the contact info for who does that stuff for us.

>> That would be greatly oh, if you don't mind dropping that in,

it would be great to be able to connect with them.

Awesome. Who else would like to share

or ask any questions that you would like to workshop with your peers?

>> This is Ricky Lee from Bloomington Illinois, and we have four counties, rural counties in our service area

including one of those counties covered by [can't understand]

captioner: The current speaker is too faint to hear

>> We have four rural counties in our service area

and only one of them is covered under part C

and that typically falls under the CARES Act money.

Was wondering if others have that

and if they have worked it out with their officers.

I know there are the county lines but

it's got weird language in it

and we are try to see if [can't understand]

like some clarification on that from others.

>> Ricky Lee, the question is you have

a few centers but only one of them got the CARES funds, is that right?

>> Counties. Only one of our four counties

are covered under part C.

So our question we have, in this state

we have five CILs

and we are trying to work through the different information we are getting back.

>> Does anybody else have experience with that?

Ricky Lee is wondering if you have

several counties that your CIL serves but

only one of those counties that you're using C funds for, have you work that out?

Let's see if anybody else has the same experience.

Does anybody have thoughts on that?

>> So when I was on that call

with Paul McElroy

on the ninth I think it was and we talked about

how funds are used, that conversation came up.

We were the first center in the state, we were federally funded

and reserved nine counties and there were two others we spun off

during that initial year when centers were being formed around the country.

They are also federally funded.

They are the only centers, only federally funded centers got the CARES Act money.

The two states centers did not.

One of the questions on the call was

is it okay to be generous and share,

and she said absolutely not.

You need congressional approval, this was passed by Congress,

we don't have the authority at ACL is what she said to override a congressional act

and unfortunately that cannot be done.

So that is where we are at with that.

She was talking about partnerships, not Paula, but the woman who was asking the question.

So my understanding is you would need to know how those other centers are funded, I guess that's the question.

But it's not okay and then you really need to have a paper trail,

whatever you are using for criteria,

whatever your best guess is that how to make it whatever you are going to spend it on

so that it fits within the criteria of that act.

But you can come up with some pretty good stuff,

you just cannot share it with centers that are not federally funded.

They are the only ones that got the funds and that's the way the act reads unfortunately.

>> I understand that, my center

serves -- one center serves all four counties,

we have a satellite office in the county that is part scenic federally funded.

The other three counties are still served by us as well.

There is no other CILs, we are in this whole County area.

>> So you were a CARES Act CIL,

so they did get the money Marilyn is what she is saying,

but because of the way they parse their funding out in their CIL,

their part C funding only covers one of the four counties.

That is a tricky question and I think

I don't know if you said you have or not but working that out

with your program officer because I just don't know.

That is different than the question that you heard, Marilyn,

which we have heard the answer on sharing it between CILs,

but you were wondering is one CIL can assure between my counties.

That seems a little --

>> We can share those funds with any entity or consumer in those counties

because that is our consumer area

but we can use the funds outside of that area

and we can share with the two state-funded CILs

and the money can't be shared with them for anything as well.

So our service area is pretty big

so I would guess you could share with those in the counties that your CILs serve.

Which include your satellites because the Albuquerque center has two satellite offices and they are a state-funded center in New Mexico.

So there satellite officers would be part of their CIL.

That's my understanding.

>> I was going to say could you get the program administrator

to clarify that for you?

It would be better to have something in writing.

I'm just saying.

>> I absolutely agree and we are trying to do that.

[can't understand] ACL changed and we are now working with somebody new [can't understand].

>> Understandable. I'm glad it sounds like we've got

some feedback and I am glad Marilyn you are on the call and listening so closely.

How about others, any other thoughts on Ricky Lee's

question or are there any other questions or info you would like to share?

Gosh, we are already at the top of the hour.

So I want to check in quick with folks

and see if anybody has other thoughts or questions they would like to share.

>> I think it's really early in the game

when we are just starting to get open again

so all I am saying is it's a good beginning conversation.

But we are all just starting to dip our toes in the water

and decide whether we will keep this remote virtual stuff going

which I think most people are doing and investing in

and I think it's a new era, it's kind of exciting

and the youth coordinators are a great help, we have one finally this year.

Actually this is her second year, and it's great.

And we are part of that IL training, the youth training,

so we are developing that program for the next six months and that's exciting too.

Anyway I just wanted to say everybody, thank you

for the information that has been shared today.

>> Great, and thank you everybody for coming.

I will be honest I don't remember how long I booked the call for,

they used to be 90 minutes but I think they are an hour now and I have already gone over.

Can you believe that?

I do want to mention, we do have a youth coordinator connected with the peer support calls as well.

So definitely get in touch with us if you have a youth coordinator

and you would like for them to join in.

I think you are right, this is the very beginning.

I'm glad we were able to touch base today.

If anybody has questions you did not get to ask

feel free to email them to me.

Please send me also if you have any info

on what you would like future calls to be on.

We have hit this Covid stuff

pretty hard, and like I said last week

we had a call on nursing home transition peer support

and we had over 200 people there and I think that is something

we will continue as well so keep your eyes open for that.

And please feel free to evaluate,

you can see the link and you can copy and paste it and throw it in your screen.

It's a nice way for us to keep in touch with you

to see how we are doing.

Thanks everybody for joining.

And we will be in touch soon.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Goodbye everyone.