

# Realizing Rural Relationships: Peer Support for Rural Outreach and Organizing

The Rural Community Living Development Peer Mentoring Team  
October 11, 2022

## What you can expect today

- Brief introduction to the Rural Community Living Development Peer Mentoring Program
- Focused discussions on three rural outreach and organizing topics
  1. Outreach through new programming
  2. Reaching underserved communities
  3. Building non-traditional relationships
- Wrapping up and how to get involved

## The RCLD Peer Mentoring Program

- Rayna Sage
- Lillie Greiman
- The RCLD curriculum and peer mentorship model
- Introduction: The Rural Community Living Development peer-to-peer mentoring program creates opportunities for CIL staff to learn about and practice rural community outreach and organizing with the support of more experienced CIL staff. The goal is to build and use community resources for addressing the community living needs of rural people with disabilities.

## Activity

- What is one word you would use to describe rural outreach?

### Outreach through new programming

- Stephanie Deible, Disability Network West Michigan
- Dori Tempio, Able South Carolina

## Advocacy Day for Access and Independence South Carolina

### Disability Partners in Disaster Coalition

### Young Professionals Group

### Reaching underserved communities

- Sequoia Commins, Tri-County Independent Living
- Tessa Hickman, Valley Associates for Independent Living

### Your Del Norte Team

Carolyn Webb  
Office Manager

Sequoia Commins  
Independent Living Skills Specialist

Trish Cottrell  
Program Development Specialist

Samantha Nickles  
Youth Coordinator

### Del Norte and Tribal Adjacent Lands (DNATL)

Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation  
<https://www.tolowa-nsn.gov/>

Elk Valley Rancheria  
<https://elk-valley.com/>

Yurok Tribe  
<https://www.yuroktribe.org/>

### A Quick Fact

- Del Norte County has 9.7% reported demographic of Native American persons (April 2021)  
Our Work is Important!

## Coordinating with Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation

Left: Seal of Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation

Right: Tolowa Dunes State Park

Authenticity

Respect

Patience

Humility

## Community is Everything

Left: Tri-County Independent Living Del Norte Grand Opening

Honoring communities that came before us honors the future as well

## Examples of Collaboration

→ Sharing Resources

Direct advertisement to proper tribal connections. Public facing and agency facing education and cultural priming

→ Participating in Tabling Events

Starting from the Elder Resource Fair

→ Being Teachable

## Examples of Collaboration Reaching underserved communities

- Tessa Hickman, Valley Associates for Independent Living

## Building non-traditional relationships

- Hank Bostic, Disability Network Southwest Michigan
- Quinn Durrant, North West Georgia Center for Independent Living

## Building non-traditional relationships

- Hank Bostic, Disability Network Southwest Michigan

## Building non-traditional relationships Continued

- Quinn Durrant, North West Georgia Center for Independent Living

## Main takeaways and open discussion

- Rural outreach is thinking outside the box
- Non-traditional partners outside of disability network
- Bringing people from disability community together with nondisabled people
- Raising awareness that disability impacts us all
- Elevating disability culture and pride, especially with underserved and marginalized communities

## How to get involved

- Become a mentee and join us for an in-person meeting in April!
- Problem-solve and strategize with the RCLD team
- Get support to use RCLD resources
- Contact Rayna Sage [rayna.sage@umontana.edu](mailto:rayna.sage@umontana.edu) or drop your contact in the chat

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