



accessABILITY

Rural Institute
UNIVERSITY OF
MONTANA

RTC:Rural
Research & Training Center
on Disability in Rural Communities

Partnering for Research at Your CIL: An interactive workshop on strategies for success

Ashley Newell, Renota Shepherd, Susan Ferguson, Krys Standley, Rayna Sage, and Hannah Pepprock

Mounting Horizons, Accessibility, and The Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities

Will be a QR Code
with access to the
PDF on APRIL
website

Funding statement

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Goals for the next 90 minutes

- Learn about CIL-based intervention research
- Give and receive peer support on doing CIL-based research projects
- Contribute ideas for a fact sheet to inform research practices for stronger CIL-based projects
- Provide your contact information to give further feedback on and receive the finalized fact sheet

Introductions

- Ashley Newell and Renota Shepherd: Mounting Horizons – TX
- Susan Ferguson: Accessibility – IN
- Krys Standley, Rayna Sage, and Hannah Pepprock: The Rural Institute for Inclusive Communities, MT

Why we want to work with CIL partners

- Projects rooted in IL philosophy
- Seeking to understand how to improve community living, health, and employment for people with disabilities
- Mutually beneficial
- Professional development opportunities
- Finding ways to support CILs in demonstrating their value

The Peer Collective

- 3-year grant funded in 2021
- Year 1: Participatory curriculum development (PCD)
 - Iterative process
 - 4 CIL staff and 4 consumers
 - Weekly meetings
 - Resulted in a 6-week online workshop to be facilitated by CIL staff and peer advocates – “The Peer Collective”

The Peer Collective, continued

- Years 2 & 3: Evaluation
 - 9 CILs
 - 2 facilitators per center facilitated 2 workshops
 - Asked to recruit 20 consumers total – randomly assigned to immediate workshop or a waitlist for a later workshop
 - Consumers were invited to complete 3-4 surveys
 - Interviews with facilitators and consumers

The Peer Collective (in evaluation phase)

<https://peercollective.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/>



Peer Collective



Your Supports



Knowing Yourself



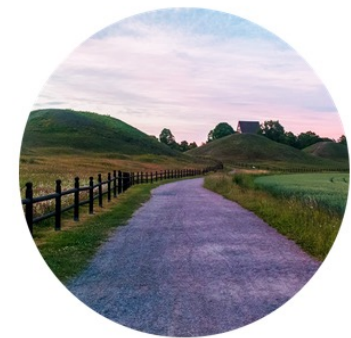
Self-Talk



Relating to Others

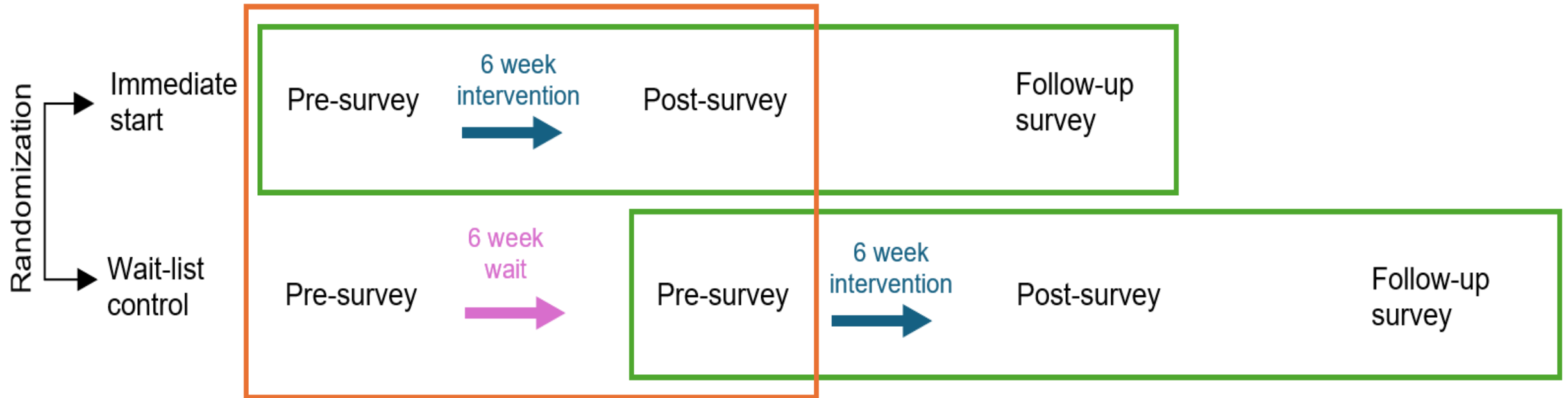


Successful Conversations



Wrap Up

Evaluating The Peer Collective: Years 2 & 3

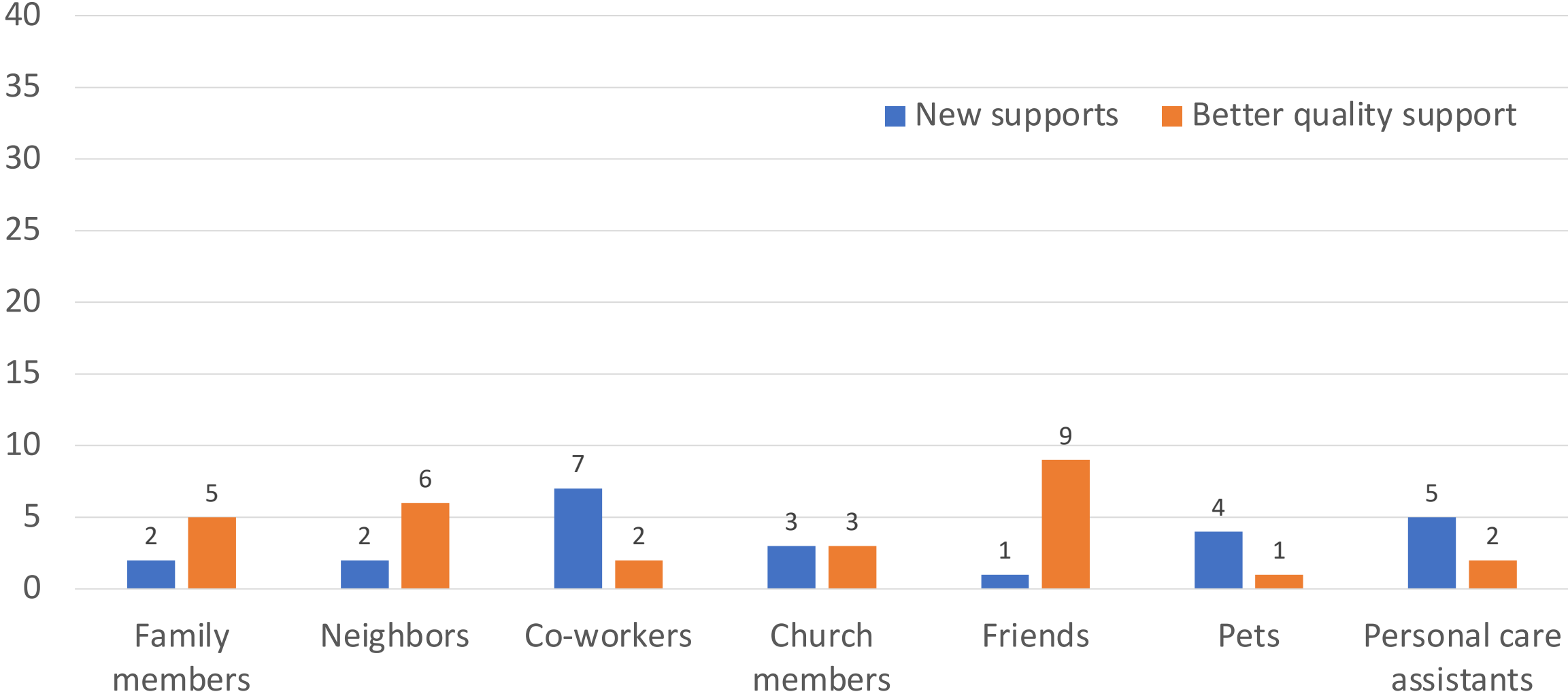


CIL staff experiences doing this project



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Survey Results on Social Support (n=42)



Participant Quotes

“I didn't realize ... people, like in the group, might have different thoughts than I do. And just because somebody has a thought that differs from mine, doesn't mean I need to shut the book completely. I need to consider what they say and think about it.”

Workshop consumer, Texas

“And I made a friend. So now we talk more often, and I have a friend who went through this course. So, we have the same tools in our toolbox from this course to build our friendship!”

Workshop consumer, Indiana

What went well for consumers

- Consumers had opportunity to build confidence, try new things, share personal experiences
- Consumers wanted to continue connecting after the research was done
- Incentives were helpful!

What went well for CIL staff

- Networking with other CIL partners
- Sharing out tools and new ideas, for example: Mentimeter
- Weekly team meetings and peer support
- Able to encourage certain consumers to do the interviews

Lessons learned for CIL staff

- Felt discouraged because of inconsistent consumer participation – this is common and part of the reality
- Recruitment can be hard and targets might not be realistic

Lessons learned from researchers

- Recruitment
 - What and who? Issues around guardianship
- Supporting technology use
 - Time, patience, and relationships...and patience
 - Motivational interview techniques for working with resistance
- Flexibility and being open
- Facilitator supports and empowerment
- Independent Living Philosophy

Pair and Share





- Choose either question to discuss (5 min opening)
 - If you have experiences working on research projects at their CIL: What that was like?
 - What do you think your organization culture is (or would be) around doing research projects like the one described?

Small group discussion – 4-5 people/group

- Get a workshop packet from one of the presenters
- Reflecting on your experiences and thoughts on doing research projects at your CIL, rank the approaches, activities, and processes thought to be helpful in doing CIL-based research included in your packet
- Add additional approaches, activities, and processes that come up on the blank slips of paper

Adding your input

- Now add your items to the group rankings on the wall – identifying them as:

Not important at all	Somewhat important	Very important	Essential!
			

Building our fact sheet together

- What are the most important approaches, activities, and processes that came out of this project
- What else could be important to include on a fact sheet for other CIL staff and researchers to know about partnering for research projects?

Contact

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