Advice from the Experts:

Minority Youth with Disabilities Share Program Improvement Opportunities with Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

March 22, 2023

Housekeeping Items

/ **Closed captioning and American Sign Language interpreters are available.**

/ **Audience Q&A will happen at the end of our presentations. You may submit questions by:**

    1. **Zoom in the Q&A tab**

    2. **Email at Jose.Vega@memorialhermann.org**

/ **You may submit questions at any time, but we will wait until the Q&A section to address them.**

MY-CIL Funding and Disclaimer

/ **Funding for MY-CIL comes from the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Project on Minority Youth and Centers for Independent Living at Hunter College, City University of New York.**

/ **This project is jointly funded under grant number 90DPGE0013 as a cooperative agreement between the Office of Independent Living Programs and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, both in the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.**

/ **The contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.**

Overview

/ **Introduce background of the MY-CIL project**

/ **Share highlights from youth focus groups**

/ **Discuss ways CILs can effectively reach out to youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds**

/ **Discuss how CILs can sustain engagement of youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds**

/ **Discuss program and activity recommendations for CILs**

/ **Discover community-based perspectives from youth participants and CIL leaders**

/ **Invite audience Q&A**

Facilitators

Kimberly Aguillard, Ph.D.

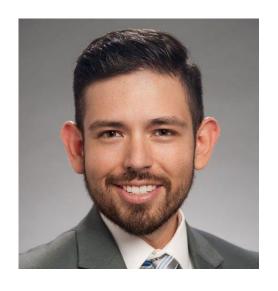**Health Equity Researcher, Mathematica**

Laura McDermott, M.S.W.

Advisory Services Analyst, Mathematica

Joey Vega

Research Operations Coordinator, Independent Living Research Utilization

Presenters

Apple Gabriel

Youth focus group participant

Oliver Olivia

Youth focus group participant

Aditya Singh

Youth focus group participant

Presenters (continued)

Amanda Reichard, Ph.D.

Project Officer, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living (ACL)
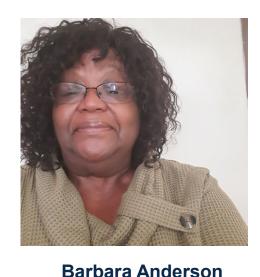

Sharon McLennon-Wier, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., CRC, LMHC

Executive Director, Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (CIDNY)

Michael Hanna

Equip Coordinator, Able South Carolina

Barbara Anderson

Independent Living Specialist for FAST TRACK, Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living (SICIL)

Remarks from Amanda Reichard

MY-CIL Project Background

/ **Conduct research to generate new knowledge on effective best practices for out-of-school (ages 14 to 24) youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds**

/ **Provide technical assistance to increase CILs' capacity to adopt evidence-based practices**

/ **Facilitate learning collaboratives for CIL training, capacity building, and knowledge exchange**

/ **Disseminate promising and innovative practices**

/ **Engage community advisory group to inform MY-CIL research and learning activities**

MY-CIL Focus Group Background

/ **We held three virtual focus groups with 26 out-of-school youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds in June 2022.**

/ **We partnered with three CILs:**

- **SICIL** (http://sicil1.org/)
- **CIDNY** (https://www.cidny.org/)
- **Able South Carolina** (https://www.able-sc.org/)

MY-CIL Focus Group Topics

/ **How can CILs better engage out-of-school youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds?**

/ **What factors support out-of-school youth from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds to engage with CILs? What factors hinder them?**

/ **What unique or innovative approaches have CILs used to improve outreach and engagement with out-of-school youth from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds?**

/ **What role should CILs play in assisting youth in the future?**

Ways CILs Can Conduct Effective Outreach

Discussion with Aditya Singh

Aditya Singh

Focus Group Findings: Youth Suggestions on Effective Outreach

/ **Share clear information about programs and activities on social media platforms, CIL websites, and with community partners**

/ **Highlight the content, structure, and purpose of meetings, programs, and activities in outreach materials**

/ **Consider incentives for participation:**

- Refreshments and snacks
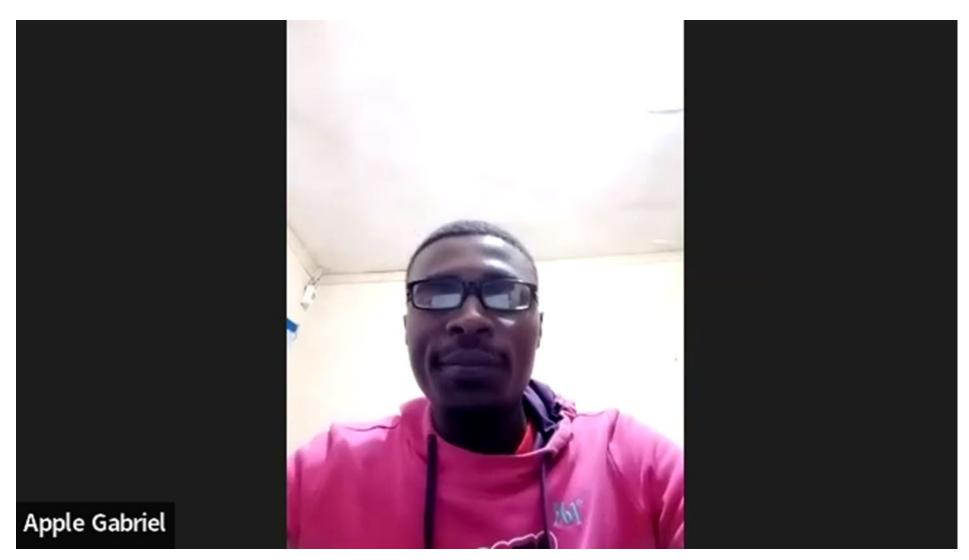- Gift cards

CIL Discussion Questions: Effective Outreach

/ **What are the communication and outreach strategies your CIL uses to reach consumers and people with disabilities who are not involved with your CIL yet?**

/ **Can you describe any techniques for reaching out-of-school youth with disabilities from minority backgrounds?**

/ **What is your biggest challenge with outreach? Do you have any creative solutions to these challenges?**

Ways CILs Can Sustain Engagement

Discussion with Apple Gabriel

Apple Gabriel

Focus Group Findings: Youth Suggestions on Engagement

/ **Minimize barriers to participating in new groups and activities, including transportation**

/ **Create a welcoming environment that prioritizes value and respect**

- Center equity

- Free of discrimination, racism, judgement, and other harm

/ **Specify expectations of participants in outreach materials**
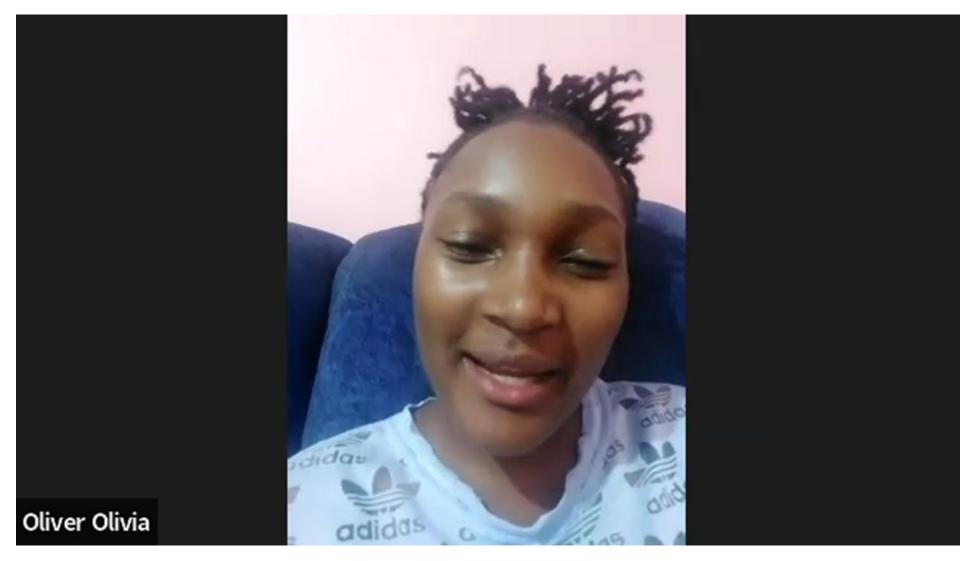
CIL Discussion Questions: Sustain Engagement

/ **What programs does your CIL offer for youth?**

/ **Do you have methods for keeping out-of-school youth from minority backgrounds engaged in these programs?**

/ **How do you help youth from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds to feel comfortable and welcome?**

Program and Activity Recommendations for CILs

Discussion with Oliver Olivia

Oliver Olivia

Focus Group Findings: Youth Suggestions for CIL Programs

/ **Create opportunities to learn new skills, hobbies, and have fun**

/ **Establish social support groups and develop mentorship programs**

- Especially for youth from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds

/ **Create blends of instructional and less formal activities to allow for comfortable learning and community building with peers**

/ **Design targeted programs based on participants' independent living interests and goals**

CIL Discussion Questions:
Program and Activity Recommendations

/ **How have your programs centered racial equity when working with out-of-school youth with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds?**

/ **How do your programs help youth within this population connect with peers or mentors?**

/ **How does your program help each youth meet their individual career or independent living goals?**

Q&A with Panelists

Submit written questions for panelists using the Zoom Q&A tab

OR

email questions to Jose Vega at
jose.vega@memorialhermann.org

References

/ **To learn more about MY-CIL, please visit https://minorityyouthcil.com/**

/ **To access the recording, slide deck, and the practice briefs that inspired this webinar, please visit our event webpage: https://www.mathematica.org/events/advice-from-the-experts-minority-youth-with-disabilities-share-program-improvement-opportunities?utm_source=acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&utm_content=MY-CIL%20(1)**

Contact Information

/ **Elizabeth Cardoso, MY-CIL Project Director, Hunter College, ecardoso@hunter.cuny.edu**

/ **Purvi Sevak, MY-CIL Project Director, Mathematica, psevak@mathematica-mpr.com**

/ **Amanda Reichard, MY-CIL Project Officer, NIDILLR, ACL, Amanda.Reichard@acl.hhs.gov**

/ **Michael Hanna, Able SC, mhanna@able-sc.org**

/ **Sharon McLennon-Wier, CIDNY, smclennonwier@cidny.org**

/ **Barbara Anderson, SICIL, banderson@sicil1.org**

Thank you!

Please complete our post-event questionnaire!

https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV 0ondx5vSD4uXWx8