



CONSOLIDATED NOTES FROM DISCUSSION BREAKOUTS

JULY 12, 2007

4:00-5:00 p.m.

On Thursday, July 12 the ADRC National Meeting participants were divided by region into three large breakout rooms to discuss opportunities in their states for strengthening partnerships between ADRCs and Centers for Independent Living. These notes were compiled from notes taken in all three rooms, synthesized into common themes and organized according to the discussion questions participants were asked to discuss.

1. What kind of partnership does the ADRC have with CILs in your states?

In what ways does the partnership work well?

- Involving local partners who are familiar with consumers and their communities
- Building partnerships by interest and not by position or communities
- Developing equal level partnerships and tier level partnerships
- Identifying areas where opportunities do not exist
- Building and maintaining trust
- Co-locating staff or having cross-referral processes in place
- Keeping partners engaged at all levels and stages
- Having CILs house ADRC pilot sites
- Working together on common issues like housing modifications, disaster preparedness
- A strong presence of leadership or champion person

Are there areas in which the partnership could be improved or strengthened?

- Several grantees noted that training in areas of sensitivity and terminology would help strengthen relationships
- Identifying lessons learned from both successes and failures
- Better understanding the CIL funding streams.
- Outlining the roles ADRCs and CILs can play in the communities they serve
- Brown bag lunches to discuss opportunities and challenges
- Learning to provide constructive feedback (stop finger pointing)
- Inviting partners into the process early
- Overcoming "turf" issues to create a greater awareness of what both of the organizations do, in order to see where functions overlap or could complement each other.
- Develop MOUs
- CILs could shadow ADRCs to get a better understanding of the ADRC concept and functions
- Utilize common areas of interest (housing, transportation, etc.) to partner together and build resource databases
- Changing the name of the ADRC to ADRN (N-- network) could help improve partnerships. The word "network" sounds more inclusive
- Identifying a liaison who is respected by both parties



- CIL 101 training for ADRCs which would include Independent Living vision, history, federal designation, funding stream.
- CILs concern that ADRCs will affect their mission

2. What did you think about today's sessions at the NICL conference? Did you hear anything that you thought was particularly useful, interesting, or surprising?

- A common theme that emerged is the need to clear up misconceptions about the aging network and establish mutual respect.
- Surprised by the preference of "No Wrong Door" terminology over the "Single Point of Entry" terminology by CILs.
- Some grantees disagreed with the blanket statement that the DD community is difficult to work with – that is not the case in all states.
- Some grantees didn't like the characterization of aging network services as a "medical model" and the perception that all AAAs deliver services. ADRC grantees believe that the aging network embodies a more socio-medical model.
- CILs have more flexibility with how they can spend their funds; limited constraint when compared to the aging network.
- Need to communicate that ADRCs are trying to coordinate resources to keep people at home, not telling people what to do, and not taking over funding.
- Some NCIL members seemed hesitate to participate because they feel they've been left out of the ADRC funding and planning processes.
- ADRC participants expressed that it would have been nice if the NCIL group could have heard the achievements that the ADRCs are making.
- Grantees see how advocacy is a key link to building partnerships between aging and disability.
- Some grantees perceived a lack of organization and structure among CILs; their network seems fragmented than expected.
- Some grantees were also surprised by the range and difference of philosophies among the CILs.

3. Did you make any new connections with people in your state at lunch?

- Most states noted that they had already partnered with the CILs in their states or were getting ready to do so.
- One state was invited to speak to a disability caucus after this conference.
- Others states met some CIL staff for the first time and will be contacting each other in the future.

4. What opportunities for collaboration did you identify?

- The aging network has political connections and can use these connections to advocate for the disability community
- Becoming members on advisory boards
- Focus on the strengths of both organizations.
- Involving more individuals with disabilities on committees and the planning process
- Lobbying legislatures jointly to develop policies that encourage more collaborative efforts between both networks



- Joint problem-solving on behalf of consumers at either the ADRC or the CIL to find appropriate resources for people or families that may be difficult to serve; a collaborative case review.
- Collaborate on Ombudsman program functions.
- Need to jointly consider veterans returning from the Middle East with TBI and the impact this will have on long-term care.