



The Individual and Family Support Program

IFSP State Council

Sept. 24, 2021, 2-4 p.m.

<https://dbhds.zoomgov.com/j/1619331039>

Passcode: mz@JpBOS

Attendees: Erika Jones-Haskins, Carly Blake, Rachel Vamenta, Cristin Sprenger, Steph Thull, Sean Campbell, Elizabeth Noriega, Lisa Richard, Jen Krajewski, Lesley Harrop, Renee Soniat, Dana Koenig, Joan Brunner

I. Introductions and Agenda

- a. Introductions
- b. Icebreaker: National Punctuation Day! What type of punctuation describes how you are feeling today?
- c. Educational component: Sibshop video with Sarah Doyle, ASCV Program and Outreach Director
- d. Funding Program Updates
- e. General Program Updates
- f. Wrap-up

II. Educational component: Sibshop video from Sarah Doyle, ASCV Program and Outreach Director

- a. Overview of ASCV mission, services, and supports
 - i. This year, ASCV holds virtual Sibshops on the the 3rd Saturday of each month from 2-3:30 p.m. Designed for siblings aged 7-13 years old.
 - ii. Email Sarah: sarah.doyle@ascv.org
- b. Sibshop webcast with Aliza Weiss, formerly at VCU Autism Center for Excellence
 - i. Research highlights on siblings of people with disabilities
 1. Siblings are most likely to become caregivers.
 2. Sibling relationships can grow and change.
 3. These shows that siblings need to Siblings also need support.
 - ii. Why Sibshops?
 1. Think of the whole family: Each member has to feel supported. Many resources already target parents and guardians.

iii. Background

1. Began in 1982 at University of Washington. Now more than 400 total.
 2. Designed for siblings of individuals with special health, mental health, and developmental needs.
 3. These workshops allow siblings to meet and interact with other siblings and share their joys and concerns in a safe space.
 4. Facilitator is first-generation Sibshop-certified, which requires attending a 2-day training. Learn more at siblingsupport.org.
 5. Helpful to have a partner organization or “cosponsor,” and work with volunteers.
 6. Other resources: VA is for Siblings at <http://www.vasibs.org>; Sibling Leadership Network at <https://siblingleadership.org>; Sib Strong (for teen and adult siblings; based in D.C.) at <https://www.sibstrong.org>
- c. IFSP is glad to support these activities in whatever way we can. Please share your ideas with the State Council.

III. Funding Program Updates

- a. Currently open for accepting applications.
- b. Timeline for activities: Save a draft period runs until 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 4th; application submission from 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 7th.
- c. New this year: Applicants MUST save a draft to submit their application. They will not be able to create a draft after 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 4th.
- d. Web traffic: Information is shared on MLMC, Constant Contact/listserv, and IFSP Facebook
- e. MLMC-Funding resources: Webpage resources at <https://tinyurl.com/mlmc-funding>, call center with SeniorNavigator

IV. General Program Updates

- a. Staffing changes:
 - i. Carly is leaving on October 7th. Erika will be temporarily absorbing some of the Council administrative duties.
 - ii. Cristin (Western) is leaving on October 1st.
 - iii. Rafael (Northern) left in August.
- b. Recruitment: Current focus is on filling vacant State Council positions, which helps us meet DOJ compliance. Carly reached out to eligible members and is interviewing with some.
- c. Regional revisioning
 - i. No October Coordinated Council meeting, which would have focused on recruitment. IFSP needs to prioritize filling State Council, which Carly just mentioned.

- ii. Reduced staff capacity and focus on IFSP-Funding leads us to reassess where Regional Council model should rest.
- d. Trusted community organizations: Where should regional structures live? What would it look like? How can IFSP engage with organizations? How can IFSP share information and resources in a way that is useful?
 - i. IFSP would partner with local organizations to fund and provide them with resources for regional events/outreach. Different folks have different relationships with groups in their communities. We are discussing this in our Community of Practice and may revisit this discussion at our November State Council Meeting. Our goal is to have an answer by the first part of 2022.
 - ii. Sean (Central): Recommends an assessment analysis. What does each region have? Regional resources look very different from area to area. There may be competing resources, so a support council may be seen as a threat.
 - 1. Someone leading it up would have to live there and demonstrate ability to lead, so that IFSP could have coverage in that area.
 - iii. Dana (Western): What does the area need? Pair with local SEACs or Arc chapters. Consider day support organizations!
 - 1. Are people comfortable with engaging with those resources?
 - iv. Steph (Northern): Interested in support with another organization. But who?
 - v. Lesley (SW): People tend to like their “base communities.”
- e. Next meeting date: Virtual meeting on November 19th.
 - i. Most meetings will continue to have a virtual component, but IFSP would like to travel to a fixed location in each region around Virginia.
 - ii. Self-advocates have expressed interest in joining the State Council.
 - iii. After November meeting, the State Council kickoff meeting would happen in early 2022, but most likely not in January.

V. Wrap-up

- a. Next State Council meeting: Virtual meeting on November 19th.
- b. Carly will follow up with State and Regional Council members before departing.