

State Family Support Coalitions: Bringing the Aging and Disability Community Together

Transcript

>> MAX DANIEL: My name is Max Daniel. I'm with the Arc of the United States. I want to go over a couple things before I pass it over to Robin. We are going to be recording this webinar. If you have any questions, keep that in mind. Speaking of questions, all attendees are muted. If you have a question or comment, please type it into the chat box, which will be at the lower right-hand corner of your screen. Then we will see if we can work that into the presentation.

Without further ado, I am going to hit record and pass it to Robin. But I want to make sure everyone knows we have a quick short survey at the end of the webinar, please feel free to fill it out, it helps make the webinars better. And we will take your feedback as much as possible. There is captioning, as well. There is a link in the chat box at the bottom right-hand corner. If you click that it will take you to captioning for today's webinar. I will pass it off to Robin.

>>ROBIN: Thanks, I'm a senior executive officer for individual and family support at the Arc of the United States. I am very happy you have been able to join us today to hear about the work that three of our chapters of the Arc have been doing to organize state family support coalition. The Arc is happy to be a part of the Family Support Research and Training Center, with the University of Illinois in Chicago. The FSRTC is a collaboration of researchers and organizations that focus on synthesizing and generating knowledge about the needs and experience is a family to provide support to people with disabilities across the lifespan. That his children, adults with a variety of disabilities, and seniors.

One of the things we do in the FSRTC is offer grants to chapters to organize state coalitions that bring together disability organizations involved with family support in their state. These coalitions include organizations that advocate for people with physical developmental, mental health and aging disabilities. Family caregiver organizations, and organizations that advocate for and with underserved racial and ethnic communities.

In the first year of the project, three chapters organized these convenings. The Arc of Kentucky, the Arc of Tennessee, and the Arc of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. These organizations put together a one-day meeting to identify and share promising practices, and to develop and implement action plans to address challenges.

Today we are fortunate to have with us the executive directors of those three chapters of the Arc. They are going to share with us what they learned about challenges and promising practices in their state. We will learn more about the plans they have outlying to move their coalitions forward.

I will introduce all three and ask each to share some information and then we will have a discussion around a few different questions. If you have questions, please type them into the chat box and we will try to work them in.

The three panelists we have with us today are first Patty Dempsey who served as the Executive Director of the Arc of Kentucky for 13 years. She has an educational background in public administration and a lot of experience in development advocacy information and training and parent support activities. She's a family member of an adult and teenage with Down syndrome, so she possesses the personal experience.

From Tennessee we have Carrie Hobbs, who has over 18 years' experience working with intellectual, individuals with intellectual disabilities in Indiana, Arizona and Tennessee chapters of the Arc. Her work focuses on employment, secondary transition, positive behavior, advocacy and systems change issues. She currently is the Executive Director of the Arc of Tennessee. Her educational background is a BA in sociology from Indiana University, Masters in special education from Indiana University, Purdue University in Indianapolis, and a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from Indiana University.

Last, but not least, Tanya Regli was the executive director of the Arc of Philadelphia. Tanya became involved in advocacy for children with special needs when her son was diagnosed with autism in 2002. At that time, she founded the advocacy group to address children with special needs in Pennsylvania. She cofounded and ran Viewpoints Learning Project, a non-profit organization designed to support inclusive environments and community centers throughout the area. She serves on the board of [indiscernible] my apologies for the pronunciation. I will hand things over first to Patty, if her audio is on, to share with us a few thoughts about what happened during the coalition in Kentucky, which was the first convening we held. And ask you to share some thoughts why you want to form a coalition, what the biggest challenges were and what happened during the first all-day meeting.

Patty is still trying to log into the call and we apologize for the technical difficulties. Let me see if we can get Tanya to share thoughts on those topics about what happened with the Pennsylvania coalition formed by the Arc of Philadelphia.

>> TANYA REGLI: Good afternoon, everyone. We began smaller -- a smaller committee from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Institute of Disabilities at Temple University. There was a lot of pre-work that happened, including a survey that went out. We worked, really that committee worked hard to make sure our coalition really represented as many areas of Pennsylvania as could be found. Some places did not even have Internet service, quite frankly, some areas.

Identifying those locations and making those connections and making sure that we were more than just disability organizations working together on this issue.

>>ROBIN: Share with us what happened at the first meeting.

>> TANYA REGLI: The survey results were shared out, which were quite fun. We learned a lot about our state and about each other, and where we were coming from. That actually was a great way to bring us together. And inform us on what the process was actually -- I would say given how little time we really had, because it is quite an endeavor to bring people together from all corners of the state to one place, it really helped really solidify what the challenges that we had in common were. And also what some of the differences were in identifying the needs for our families and for family supports.

We also, we focused a bit on making sure we also had some representation from underserved communities in our state, especially the Latino community. So we had a couple of folks there from that community, which often in Pennsylvania does not really participate or have a voice in some of the coalition work that is done.

We were posted by the Institute on Disabilities in Harrisburg, which is the capital of our state. We had that extra support and resource in terms of helping us have everything we needed to have a very productive coalition meeting.

Out of this very exciting day, came, really a coalition group for our state that had not existed before. There was also quite a bit happening around the state, driven by the office of developmental programs and Nancy [Thaler], she actually came and spoke towards the end, spoke with us, really, at the end of our day of identifying a plan, an action plan to move forward.

>>ROBIN: I know there was the additional challenge of the state budget, it had not been passed at the time of the coalition. I heard recently it still has not.

>> TANYA REGLI: It still has not passed and we are crossing our fingers. It's been a hardship across the board. There were quite a few folks who were on travel restrictions and could not participate in our coalition meeting. It made things a little more interesting, but it was still a very successful day and has led to a lot of follow-up activity.

>>ROBIN: Thank you, Tanya, I'd like to now turn to Patty Dempsey to share with us some thoughts about why she and the Arc of Kentucky wanted to take on this role forming a coalition, what the biggest challenge was and a little about what happened during the initial meeting.

>> PATTY DEMPSEY: I apologize for the audio. Yes, I would love to share, would love to talk about this project. The reason we wanted to participate, we were so glad the national organization was with us, there are so many different things coming down from the federal level that are being worked on here. It was a good time for it to happen here. Because of the final rule going on and the transitions taking place in the state. And with the transition on vocational rehabilitation. It is at a time when one of our biggest waivers is in the process of being rewritten.

We as advocates feel we don't always get our fair share on input. We felt this was the perfect time, the timing was good for us to actually bring the group together, 30 groups, to bring 30 groups together to form the coalition.

We were thinking, this is probably going to be kind of tough, Kentucky, geographically. We are diverse, it's hard to figure out where that central location is to get everyone together and for everyone to have the funding. Some people were going to have to spend the night.

Actually, we were pleasantly surprised. We said let's figure out who these 30 agencies are going to be that we want to make sure that we reach -- because another thing, we have so many different groups that are duplicating what each other are doing. But this is a perfect time to hatch all this out and see what everyone is doing, what new things are going on. We thought we would have trouble coming up with 30 people.

The other thing to help us to reach everybody that we needed to reach, we thought we would solicit the help of the Cabinet, we met with the three major departments, Medicaid, aging and independent living, and the State Department for developmental intellectual disability. They cosigned and supported us with a letter to go out and encourage people to come from their departments and their family members.

We ended up between 65 and 70 people coming to that one day coalition meeting. That was just a really positive reinforcement for us. These are people we had not heard from. It provided that connection for us, not only for them to connect with us, but for us to connect with them and hear really good ideas. We were glad to have national there, to have Robin and Jenny there to help us. We did roundtables, and I don't want to go over my time but -- we ended up with 70 people.

A really, really diverse group. We actually had good comments all day long. We had seven tables of different topics, notetakers also. At the end of the day we asked for a subgroup. We thought a good working subgroup to come up with an action plan to keep the coalition moving, it would be about 15 people. I think we had probably between 25 and 30 people that now want to serve on the subgroup that had met and will meet again, the end of January. Should I stop there, Robin?

>>ROBIN: As I said at the beginning, we were looking to get people from across disability organizations and aging organizations, the people that came and the people who signed up to keep working, how did that work out that? Did you get representation from those groups?

>> PATTY DEMPSEY: We wanted to make sure we had input from the military families. Yes, we have had follow-up. The other that we missed that day that couldn't make it, we want to make sure we had the Department for Maternal and Child Health, our public health, to make sure that population was involved as well. But, yes, we were pleasantly surprised and able to have the Alzheimer's group and various different groups that we

had not had contacted for some time. Sometimes it is not on our radar screen to collaborate with. They actually came to meetings. We also had, which was a little surprising, the parent resource groups, the education groups, from throughout the state.

We have had requests from different people to sign, on since that meeting, to actually come and listen in on the subgroup meeting. Yes, we have been able to reach out. From the first Eastern Kentucky area, we want to make sure we reach that area as well.

>> ROBIN: Carrie, tell us a little about the coalition of Tennessee and how the meeting went. Carrie, are you on mute?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: Sorry. The Arc of Tennessee wanted to form this group and get involved in this project because Tennessee currently has a few initiatives going on around this area. The Department of Intellectual and Development Disabilities has a grant, basically it is called supporting families. Community practice. We are also -- the Council on Aging and Disability has been working with us. We figured this would be a great opportunity to pull everyone together and make sure the Arc was involved in the planning. And try to work on making sure we weren't duplicating effort and that we were able to streamline things.

There are a lot of good things going on in Tennessee and they tend to be isolated pockets. We don't always know what one side of the state is doing versus the other. We thought the coalition would be a great way to pull all of the good things that are going on into one collaborative effort, and then try to replicate those. But then also by us working together hopefully would better identify where the big holes are. That was our goal or what we were looking at in terms of starting this coalition.

The biggest challenge in forming the coalition, and I think in terms of looking at our attendance, was really getting the aging community on board. I was looking at the attendance list, we invited every single aging AAAD, and also invited the state commission and several other aging organizations, and we had one person from the aging community show up. Which we already knew was a challenge. That just reinforced that that is a challenge and something we need to continue to work on.

We really are trying to work to make sure it is looking at the aging and disability because we all get older. And when we age, we develop often some disabilities so it makes sense to look at it from the big picture perspective, especially since a lot of issues from both sides are similar within the service delivery system. That is our challenge moving forward, to broaden the coalition we have started..

One of the things that was promising was we had a lot of government agency support, our 10 care organization represented, Medicaid, disability, department on intellectual and developmental disability. Our university centers for excellence. We had support in those areas. It was the aging side that we need to work on.

I think for us that was the challenge. At the meeting, we did, we had the all-day meeting

and we had tables facilitated by various folks within the community. I was really excited to see how engaged everybody was and the ideas everybody came up with. I don't think we spent a lot of time talking about what wasn't working. These were the things we can do moving forward. A lot of the strategies they came up with are very doable and concrete. They were not pie in the sky things that cost a lot of money. They were simple things that we can implement and make a big difference for families.

>>ROBIN: I heard about the aging center problems, what about the disability organizations, intellectual disabilities?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: We did have pretty good representation from some of the state agencies and then some of the smaller nonprofits that do a lot of work with children and families around mental health issues.

>>ROBIN: We'll turn to you Tanya and ask you to give us a sense of what different types of organizations were represented in the room during the meeting, with the caveat that we know that you had the issue with the state budget.

>> TANYA REGLI: Right. There were certain state agencies that had planned to be there that obviously were not. We were in Harrisburg, there were some represented and some very crucial ones. Other than that, we also had youth and self-advocates represented from different groups that are actually run by self-advocates.

We also had some of the University system. We had from the Department of Aging. We had parent organizations. And cross disability organizations represented.

In terms of composition, we were actually really pleased with who was able to participate. For us, what we loved was the fact that it was really interdisciplinary, not just disability driven. It was about more than just the disability organizations and professional organizations coming together.

>>ROBIN: The purpose, the main goal of the meeting was to both identify challenges and promising practices, and also set some goals to move forward, so I would like to ask each of you about some specific goals that were set. And, Carrie, I know you mentioned that there were some really doable goals. Would you start us out if you could by sharing what some of those were?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: One of the things that came up to the Department of Education, and I'm looking to my strategic plan to find exactly what they were planning on doing, but it was to start tracking families as soon as they were -- individuals as soon as they got identified with an IEP. They thought that would be easy to complete. It identifies students with IEP's or 504 plans at age 14, when they hit that transition age. We share that info with the relevant government departments and community-based organizations that are involved with those.

We've been talking about this with the Department of Education for some time but they

think they have enough movement now to do this. We are planning to create a universal release of information form that would be valid across government departments. We would be more easily able to share information across organizations without having families constantly have to fill out multiple releases. That gets frustrating for families. It would be a blanket release for them to do that. It would be simple, easy to do and something that would actually work. We were very encouraged about that.

We want to make sure the local agencies that do information referral include a link to the future planning center and use that as a resource to look at planning in that broader sense. We also, we have something in Tennessee called Kids Central Tennessee, part of our government website. We were looking at the possibility of developing something called Supporting Families Central that would have a similar format to Kids Central, because that website does your birth to three and your early years in the middle school.

It has a great section for students with disabilities. It is really basic in terms of resources and what families need to be looking at through their children's growth. We want to do something similar for families, and then into adulthood so they would have a government website that was simply laid out. Then we would figure out a way to tie that to what we have here, which is called Disability Pathfinder, which is more specific in terms of looking at counties and specific types of services that support families in different ways.

>>ROBIN: Patty, could you share with us some of the steps identified in the Kentucky coalition?

>> PATTY DEMPSEY: Yes, one was what Carrie alluded to, the transition. They didn't really talk about tracking, but that is a great idea, I'm glad to hear that. The transition because the information, what they came up with is the information is not shared early. Like while our kids are in school. Then kids are coming out of school and transitioning. That is why the questions are, where do I go from here? Those type of things. To work on that, to work on that transition and make sure the information, how do we get that information out to families earlier?

I don't think we came up with a solution for that. One of the things that did come out over and over was an online resource directory. There are several good ones in the state, starting to flush those out. That is one area that we are working on is look and see what is already available, and there are two or three people, maybe four that signed up to work on that. See what is going on. Is that something that can be combined and linked to all the groups involved?

The other thing that came out throughout the day was to get information to families from across the state quicker. And so that it is not so overwhelming and confusing. They get different information from different areas. The 211 system. I don't know how many states have that. But it did flesh that out some. We found our Department for Aging and Independent Living, which actually runs our self-directed programs through the waiver programs and are independent living centers are through that department.

Although we have a new administration so we don't know how things will go, but that has already been started.

A lot of us did not know that. We knew it was in some areas but we did not know that that was being worked on, on a statewide basis. It is in three areas and it is run through the United Way. We met with the Department of Aging since our coalition meeting and actually they came to our next meeting, which was our subgroup meeting, to talk about what they are doing. The good thing about it... how it gets paid for. That department has requested, put it to their budget to try to get that going to more areas of the state and look at trying to get that down the road on a statewide basis.

That is one of the things we looked at, that families get the information that they need, families and self-advocates, and people looking for services. That this comes from a resource database and goes to where it needs to go. And that people are referred to where they need to be referred to without having to make so many contacts in so many parts of the state, which they do now.

That is probably one of the bigger things that came out of that that we definitely will be looking at. Like I say, we do have a new administration here. That department does have dollars in the budget for that but we won't know anything about that for a while.

That is one of the good things about it.

>>ROBIN: Tanya let me ask if you can identify the next steps for your coalition as you move forward in Pennsylvania.

>> TANYA REGLI: One of our greatest collaborators on this has been the Department of Aging. And [Link], which is a pre-existing coalition already. What we have already started to do is coordinate our efforts and make sure that some of the follow-up work and information is going out through pre-existing seminars and webinars and meetings.

We are also working on planning other follow-up ones to fill in where those are not perhaps reaching other constituents, especially specifically the Latino immunity, and providing information and engagement with the Latino community in Spanish. That is something we have specifically been planning for.

There was a survey that went out beforehand and we are hoping to follow up again with some more survey work for the coalition. To make sure we are still keeping track of what that region is seeing.

There is also, actually next week, going to be a follow-up and this is going to be ongoing calls to connect everybody on a regular basis that participated in the original meeting.

>>ROBIN: One of the interesting things, each of these calls was organized differently, the Philadelphia group had a couple of conference calls in advance and invited everybody who was invited to the meeting so there could be a lot of input on the

structure of the day.

One of the goals of the coalition was to look at addressing the needs of communities that have been historically underserved through various services for the aging and disability community. Tanya spoke a little bit about outreach to the Latino community and I wanted to ask first Carrie and then Patty, how your coalition identified the needs of the historically underserved communities in your states. Carrie, could you start?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: It is still a challenge for Tennessee and we did identify a few things, but Tennessee in general has a very, very small minority population to begin with. In terms of that particular underserved community, it is very tiny. We are actively involved, we do have a multicultural alliance that is around disability and aging that is working on some issues. One of the things we are trying to create is universal access to a language line or translator line..

At Vanderbilt Hospital they have a language line that if you have anybody of any ethnicity and they cannot speak English they can use the translator line. You can speak to a live person that can translate in any language.

We thought about replicating that in the community for each nonprofit so we can better support those underserved populations. If we can't speak the same language we are unable to move forward.

We are very rural so that is another underserved community. We are looking for possibilities to integrating the information referral systems that go across the 211, and other IR systems.

We are also working, one of the other ideas was creating a resource manual for the aging and disability resources that actually drills it down to regions and specific sections so it is not just statewide agencies; that people can look at something and see what is related to their specific area.

>>ROBIN: Was there any outreach to the African American community?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: We did try to do outreach to some churches but we did not get a lot of response back. We sent that to the multi-cultural centers and we did not get a response back there. That was a little disappointing. The African-American population I think is about 1% of our state. It is a challenge, not only for this coalition but a lot of individual organizations are looking at that challenge.

We've become involved in something [indiscernible] which is Nashville organization for action and hope. There are some churches involved in that group that are historically African-American. Part of the reason we get involved in that is hopefully we can reach more African-Americans through that channel and hopefully pull them into this coalition. It's not on the strategic plan, but a side project we are trying to work on.

>>ROBIN: Patty, can I ask you about your outreach?

>> PATTY DEMPSEY: We realized that we weren't sure we had that input at the coalition meeting. We have a state group here. While you were talking I was looking for the name of it. For the Latino population, what have you, we have been in touch -- I am not finding the name -- but what we did was followed up afterwards and had gotten in touch. That is a challenge for us. The response on that has not been real quick. So we're still following up on that.

We also reached out, we had representation from [indiscernible] at the Human Development Institute. There is a program there that is faith-based and we have reached out to that program that they are working on, that they would be involved in this as well and help us with the outreach on that.

The other thing, because we are rural also, we had representation from the regional parts of the state. We have asked them to help us identify how to better reach the underserved population in their areas through faith-based community, the best ways we could reach that population. In some areas it is more difficult than others. We are still working on that.

We do a lot of training. One of the things we have been talking about the Family Support Project, here we do special education, training, involved with three different groups, we pool our resources on that one and that affects a lot of parents. We do that regionally. We only do about four or five of those every year. That is done regionally. That is one of the better ways we are finding because it has to do with IEPs, it has to do with parents struggling with kids in the school system. We make sure we talk about planning for the future, the family support project we have going. I think the last one we had on that was in November and we did not schedule one for December. I think the next one will be in February.

That is held in different pockets around the state. We do have other trainings as well, but that is probably in our annual conference, that one does reach some of the underserved population because it's held in different parts of the state. That is how we are working on that.

>> ROBIN: We've asked a lot about challenges. One of the goals of these coalition meetings was to identify promising practices. I want to ask each of you if there was some promising practice or good news or something going on in your state that you weren't aware of and let us know about that.

Let me start with Patty. Was there some promising practice you found out about that you had not been aware of before the coalition meeting?

>> PATTY DEMPSEY: Pretty much I think finding out information -- I'm trying to think what they are calling it here -- we try to work is our state looking into the No Wrong Door. Didn't find much about that. We have a new Governor. The 211 system, I think

that is something that we got more information when we had our subcommittee. It was to bring out some more information on different things that are going around the state. We found out some good things, some [indiscernible] going on. I am looking over what we did do at our meeting.

I'm pleased -- one of the things that we, that the group came up with, this came from the Department of Mental Health, I think a parent that works in mental health wanted to make sure people with hearing issues were involved. She had been in the department, stepping up and saying, we as a group need to talk about sustainability.

I think one of the good things that happened with us was to see everybody's energy about working together and finding out what everybody is doing and look at sustainability. Because right now when we have our meetings, they're funding themselves. Even the self-advocates and family members, they have to drive some distance. They're looking at this continuing for a while. I am pleased about that.

>>ROBIN: Tanya, how about a promising practice that you may have learned about.

>> TANYA REGLI: I think one of the things that was great was seeing the different things done in different regions that can be worked together with. Where we could collaborate together on or bring additional resources to the effort that that particular region was working on.

It was encouraging to see that even though some places were extremely rural and some very urban, there was a lot of commonality in terms of what kind of needs and supports families had. So that was another, I would say, area that we really, it helped us get on the same page very quickly. Yes, that pre-work that was done also helped.

A lot of the issues essentially that everyone was working on overlapped. It made it so that we felt like continuing this work on a statewide basis and connecting everybody made a lot of sense.

>> ROBIN: An interesting thing from the Arc of Philadelphia, they put up a map with pushpins where everybody who was attending the coalition lived in the state. It was a really nice visual for how large and broad and diverse the state is in lots of different ways.

Carrie, what promising practices sticks out in your mind that was identified through the Tennessee coalition, if any?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: Because we have a supporting family grant to the Council and Department of Developmental Disabilities, there have been a lot of neat things going on through that. I think for the entire coalition that was there that may not have had access to those materials in the past, that maybe was an eye-opener for people because they had a lot of very simple tools for families and providers to use to help families.

I think for us what was so promising was the excitement or engagement of some of the different government departments, really, this idea that collaborating together and working together made a lot of sense. For us, I think we were all, I know it sounds simple, we were most excited about the potential for having that universal release of information. We just thought more than anything else that was discussed that day, that would make families happy, it would make life easier for the government, for community-based organizations, and it would really allow us to plan better for families.

For us, that was the big excitement. It was not something -- it was something that came out of that day. I don't know if there were any big surprises from initiatives or things going on because we do have some pretty good communication in our state around this whole supporting families issue.

>>ROBIN: That is interesting, for families, the bureaucratic things you have to go through can be so frustrating when you have so much on your plate already. That is a specific idea to remove some of those barriers. It makes sense that it would come up when people get together in a room.

We have nine or 10 minutes left and I want to ask a quick question about whether -- I know one of you answered it already -- about how you were working with the aging and disability resource centers. I will ask two questions unless you combine them. First is from an audience member, how you worked with the aging and disability resource center. The second, a broader one, the people on the phone who are with chapters, let the Arc know, we are currently entertaining proposals, we have an RFP for the second year round of the state family support coalitions. I'd like to ask you to comment on, if you would want to share with other chapters who are thinking about applying for the grants in the second year, what should they know, and what can you tell them to convince them it is a great idea to apply. If there is something they should know and if there is a downside, share that too.

Carrie, can I start with you?

>> CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN: The big challenge with the ADRCs was them showing up at the coalition meeting, which they did not. We were encouraged we had one person from the Tennessee aging commission that attended. She was very engaged and involved. And to look more strongly at the No Wrong Door opportunities coming through the AAADs, they're trying to work through this process, but I think there's some awareness they need to work with some other organizations outside their own aging networks. That part was promising.

Recently, through some other activities we do have a meeting coming up with somebody else from the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disabilities to talk about collaborative effort around an issue they have, outreach to the aging community and other issues, and see if we can work together to combine our resources to be effective. Those are some of the exciting things.

For anyone looking at doing this, the challenge that typically exists when you try of pull a lot of busy people into one room at one time and get everybody to mesh. If you can get everybody there, the opportunity can be great. If you can't get everyone there, keep them in the loop and pull them in, in subcommittees in different task forces as they get formed, as you work through your strategic plan.

>>ROBIN: What roles do the ADRCs play and what other advice do you have?

>> TANYA REGLI: We were thrilled to be able to do this because it's always great to have an excuse to connect people and have a conversation. One thing I would say, just because it is initiated by the Arc doesn't mean it is just the Arc, and that is the great thing about a coalition. Really, because we did this, we could develop further relationships we had with the Pennsylvania organizations for aging. It provided us with the funding so we can make sure travel accommodations and any other barriers were covered, so that what we really focused on was making sure we had self-advocates, we had families, and we had representatives of underserved communities at the table during this meeting. And this was a chance to be able to do that.

I would say that those were the main reasons we were really happy to do this. I think I answered the question.

>>ROBIN: What involvement did you have from the ADRCs, if any?

>> TANYA REGLI: Sorry, that threw me off. We did have some representation, yes.

>>ROBIN: Patty, let me throw this to you. Did you have involvement from the ADRCs? And then what advice do you have for chapters of the Arc thinking about applying in year two?

>> PATTY DEMPSEY: What would apply in year two would be to everybody's advantage, yes, we did have involvement from the ADRCs, because they are overseen here in Kentucky from the Department for Aging and Independent Living. So we had the support of the commissioner, so the commissioner made sure that the ADRCs actually receive the information.

We had at least two or maybe three, I know of two, representatives from the regional ADRCs available there at the meeting. We have had involvement from them.

Actually, the commissioner over the ADRCs provided financial help on this project. She asked and we said, sure. Because when we ended up with a large number of people, she thought that -- the commissioner actually came to the meeting, to the coalition meeting. Actually, I think two of them did. So we did have support from the ADRCs.

I think it is very beneficial. We wanted that support network going for family members. I think, round two, the additional dollars for that would help reinforce that.

>>ROBIN: We've just a couple of minutes in the hour and I will ask one last question, I will throw this out if any of you have thoughts. One of our participants was asking whether respite came up in the conversations and if there were any ideas about it?

>> TANYA REGLI: Yes, it definitely came up in conversation. Mostly just to work on really getting back some of the respite care, and have a committee working on creative options on respite.

>>ROBIN: I want to thank all of you, Patty, Tanya and Carrie, for the great work that you and you colleagues did to form this coalition, and also for spending the time today, for these general learnings about what happened at the coalition.

We will be sending out a brief survey, but also in the follow-up materials for people who are with chapters of the Arc we will be sending you a link to the RFP for next year in case your chapter is interested in applying. Everybody will also get the recording of this webinar.

So, thank you all for joining us today. If you have any further questions for us about what happened, please feel free to email us and we will be happy to provide as much information as we can. Thank you, all. Take care.