



Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It!: Strategies for Engaging Today's Youth with Disabilities

Resources for Independence Central Valley
Sarah Harris Director of Programs
Jordan Noble Youth Empowerment Specialist



RESOURCES for
INDEPENDENCE
Central Valley



How'd we get here?

Early March 2020

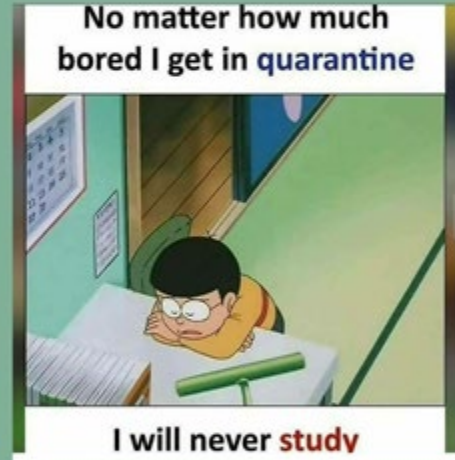
Pre-Pandemic World

Goals:

Person Centered Planning-August 2020

Hybrid Services-August 2020

Where we started...



@fun,unlimtted

March 17, 2020

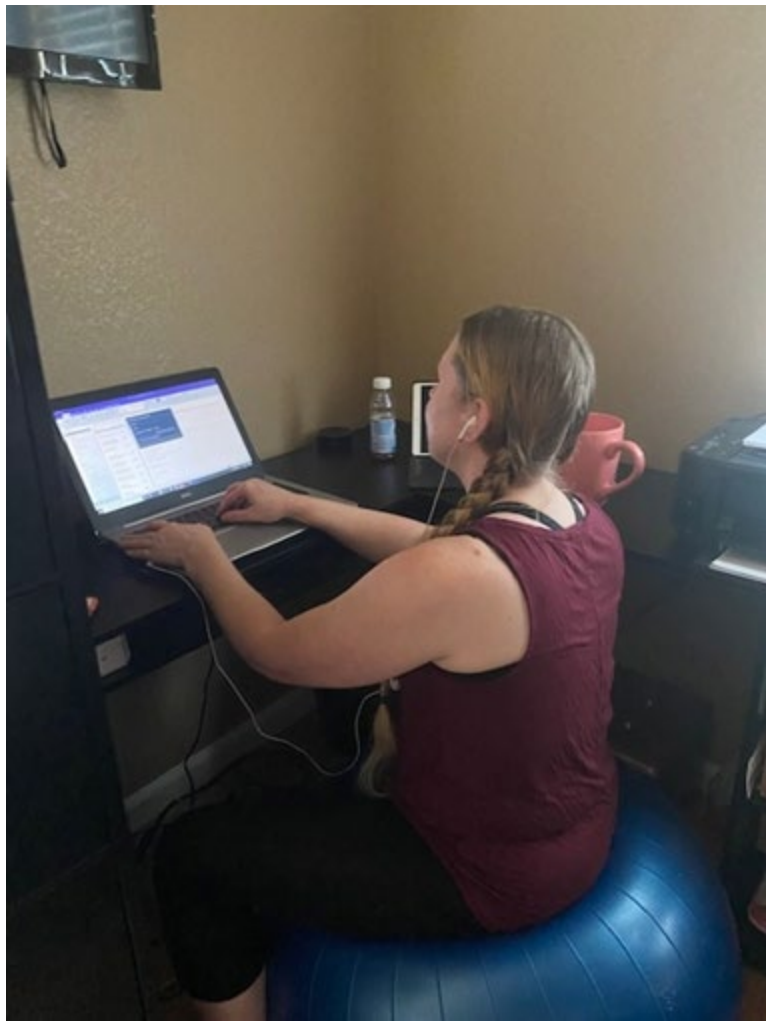
Day 1 of Remote Work



Levay
@levaymusic

I saved over \$1,000 this month by switching to Quarantine.

@socialnom





March 18, 2020
Rethink services!



**We are a Consumer-
driven/person centered
organization**

How do we do that?



Person-centered planning



Discovery

- Vision statement
- Likes & dislikes
- Who is on my team?
- What is awesome about me
- What works/doesn't work
- Worries & concerns
- Hopes & dreams
- Community engagement



Action plan issue areas

- Advocacy
- Community engagement/social engagement
- Daily living skills
- Education
- Employment
- Financial literacy
- Health & wellness
- Healthcare
- Safety
- Self-care
- Transport
- Recreation
- Other

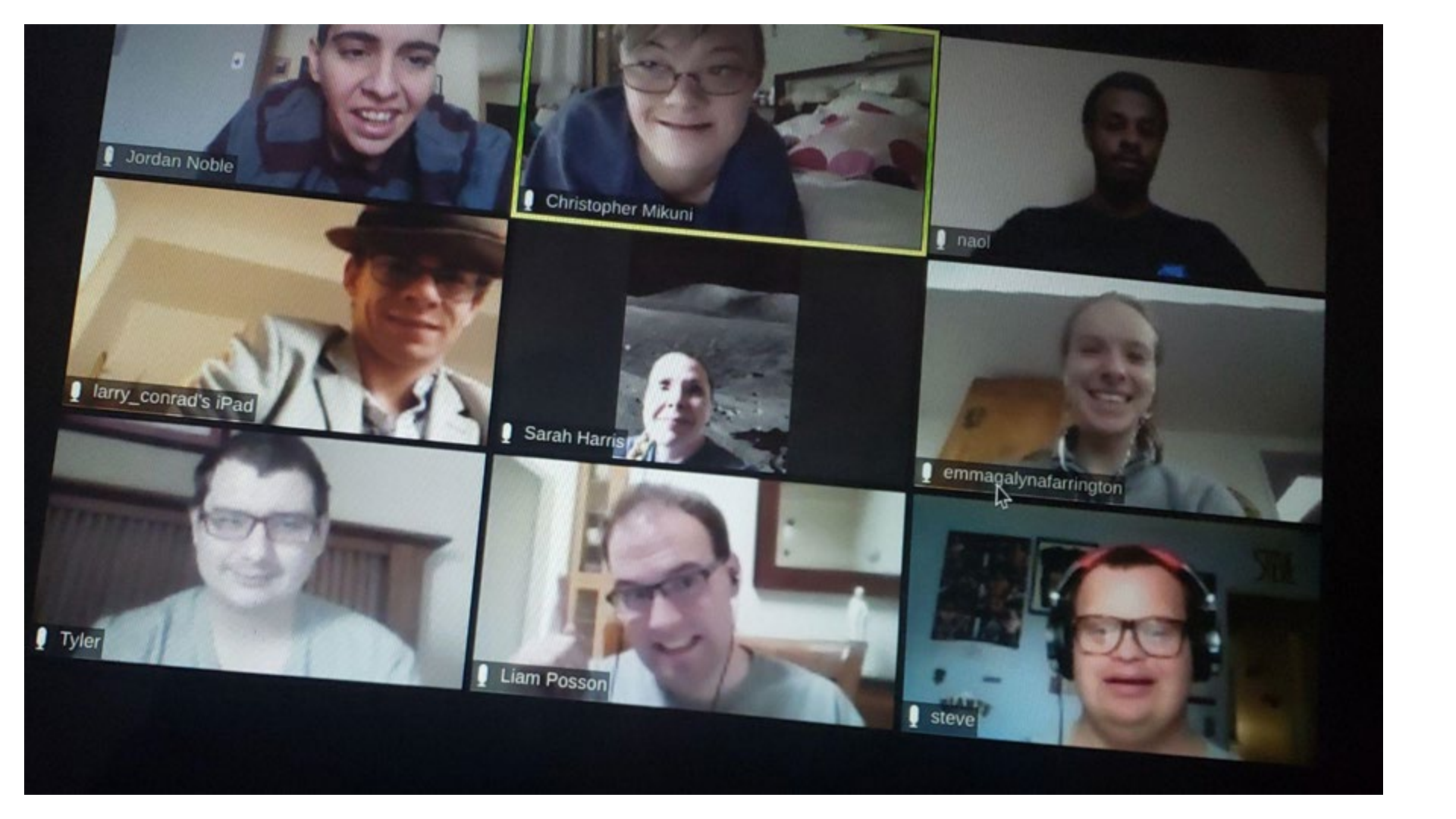


Goals Achieved

- Employment
- Recreational (Sporting events)
- Planning a trip
- Reading comprehension
- Decision Making
- Writing a book

Be About It!

Youth Group Program

A screenshot of a video conference with nine participants in a 3x3 grid. The participants are: Jordan Noble (top-left), Christopher Mikuni (top-middle, highlighted with a yellow border), naol (top-right), larry_conrad's iPad (middle-left), Sarah Harris (middle-middle, with a small inset video of a person on a beach), emmagalynafarrington (middle-right), Tyler (bottom-left), Liam Posson (bottom-middle), and steve (bottom-right, wearing a headset).

Jordan Noble

Christopher Mikuni

naol

larry_conrad's iPad

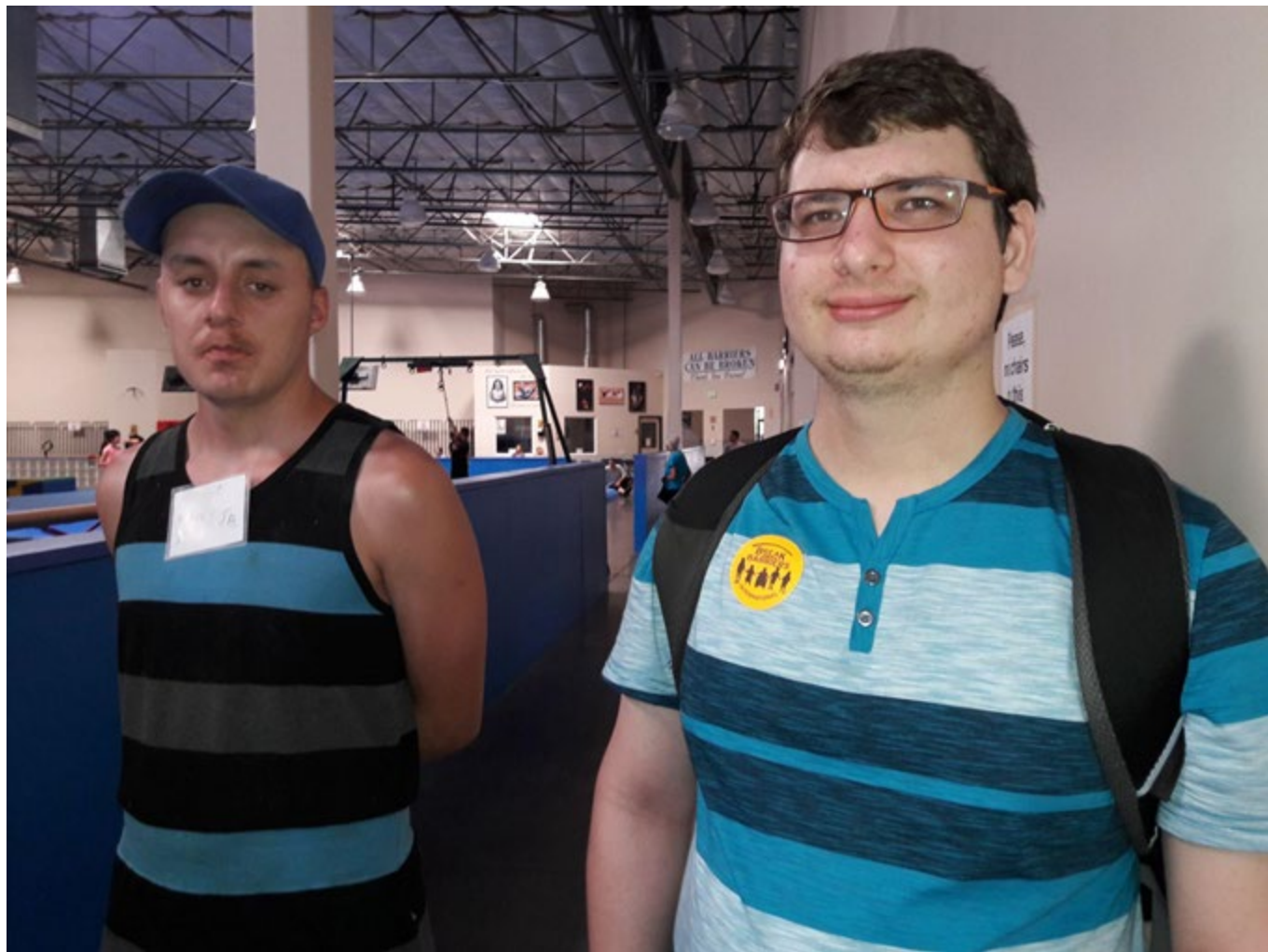
Sarah Harris

emmagalynafarrington

Tyler

Liam Posson

steve







Youth discovering opportunity goes virtual!





Workshops

- Fall Workshop (Intersectionality, inclusion, diversity & culture)
- Conflict resolution & Problem Solving

Y.E.S @ RICV

Youth age 16-28

**We meet weekly on Zoom for
be about it!**

**Some of the challenges we
faced...**

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Monthly themes

- Disability pride month

LGTBQ+

- Talk like a pirate

COVID safety



How do we entertain youth weekly??

- Readers Theater
- Show & Tell
- Contests
- Musical Moments
- Lesson Sign-Up



How do we get the word out?

- Utilize MailChimp
- Facebook
- Word of mouth
- Good ol' fashioned outreach



How do we manage a bunch of youth on zoom?

- Remind youth to be respectful
- And most of all....

HAVE FUN!!!

Youth empowering youth





What is Youth Empowering Youth?

- Virtual Classroom Presentations
 - Created for Youth
 - Developed by Youth
 - Facilitated by Youth



Who is YEY for?

- Students with Disabilities 14 & Up.
 - High Schools
 - Special Education Classes
 - Mainstream Classes
 - Adult Transition Programs
- Counties we serve:
 - Fresno
 - Kings
 - Madera
 - Merced
 - Tulare

Self- advocacy conference



How did we take a whole conference to the virtual world?

- Surveys to gauge interest/and timelines and topics.
- Things that we learned...
- Maximize our utilization of Zoom

2021 Self-Advocacy Conference



The 2021 Self-Advocacy Conference for youth with disabilities, age 14-26, was held virtually on Zoom over from April 13-May 4. Each Week had a theme and two one-hour sessions.

Week 1-April 13: Self-Care is not Selfish!”

Week 2-April 20: “Healthy Body=Healthy Life”

Week 3-April 27: “Work! Work! Work!”

Week 4-May 4: “Listen Up! My Thoughts Count!”

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4JFy7WEo1iKyfSx8LP8lkg>

Youth Discovering OPPORTUNITY Summer Program



SESSION 1

June 29th-July 8th, Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
Thursdays.

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., plus Wednesdays 2:30-4:00
p.m.

Topics: Civic Duty/Responsibility, Advocacy,
Nutrition, Disability Pride, Career Exploration,
Intersectionality, Diversity and Culture, and more.



Session 2

July 27th-August 5th Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays.

10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., plus Wednesdays 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Life Skills for Success: Email, Electronic Scheduling, Note-taking, Time Management, Critical Thinking, Decision Making, Self-Knowledge, General Reading, and Math Skills.

Okay... Now what?

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