



Menu Bar

Chat

- Please say Hello in the chat and join in! Please try to use it to speak with other participants and not to ask questions, use q and a for that so we make sure your important question doesn't get missed!

Closed Captions/CART

- Captions are available in all sessions. Select the CC button .

ASL Sign Language

- The interpreter will be one of the panelist boxes.
- If you can't see them make sure you are in gallery view.
- You can adjust the size of the PowerPoint and presentation boxes by moving the line over on the right of the screen.

Q&A

- To ask a question select the Q&A box and write a question.

Unmuting

- If you want to add to the conversation by phone or microphone you can raise your hand by selecting the hand raise option. Or pressing \*9 on the phone.

# Reaching and Serving the Youngest Youth

**able**  
SOUTH CAROLINA

independent  
living for all

## **Columbia Office**

720 Gracern Rd. Suite 106

Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803.779.5121

800.681.6805

TTY: 803.779.0949

## **Greenville Office**

135 Edinburgh Ct. Suite 101

Greenville, SC 29607

Phone: 864.235.1421

800.681.7715

TTY: 864.235.8798

# Introductions



Paige Maxwell  
*Director of Youth  
Transition Programs*



Asha Jones  
*Equip Leader*



# Agenda

- A. Share out Able SC Youth Programs , with highlight on lessons learned from a program targeting elementary students and a peer mentoring success story
- B. Importance of Serving Youth with Disabilities at a Young Age as a CIL
- C. Personal Experiences



## Goals for Our Session

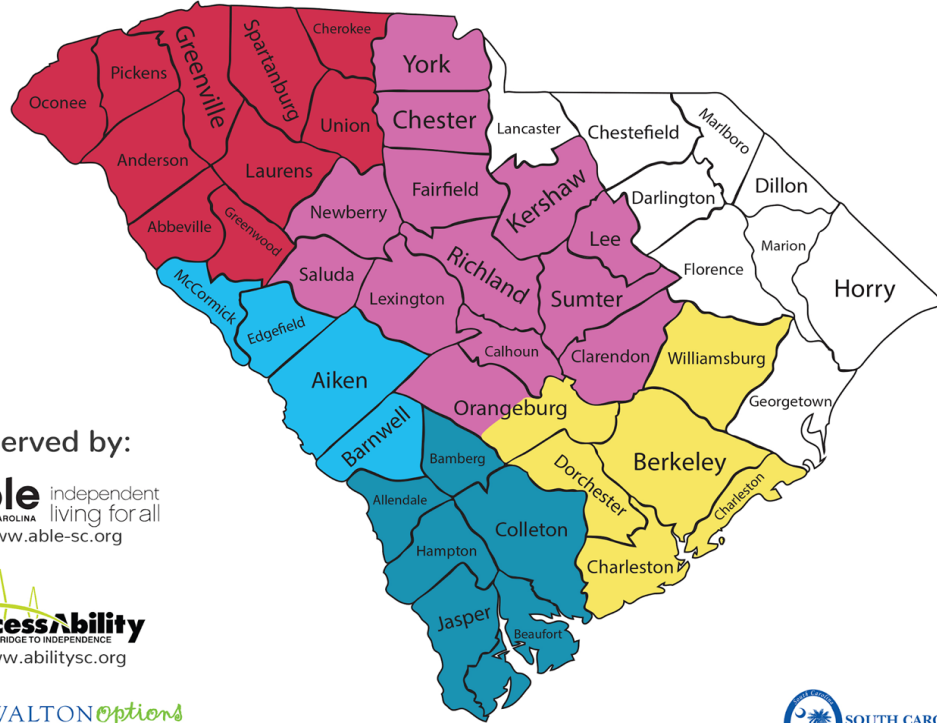
- A. Learn from our mistakes and “wish we had known”s
- B. Recognize the importance of serving youth with disabilities at a younger age with independent living philosophy and peer mentoring
- C. Walk away with some ideas of how to reach out and build up your youngest youth consumers



# Able SC

And Youth Programs

# South Carolina Centers for Independent Living Coverage Areas



SC is served by:





# 1,675+

Number of Youth 0-29 Served this past FY





# Pre-Employment Transition Services

CareerBOOST

Capable and Ready!

and

Department of  
Education

- A. SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) and SC Commission for the Blind (SCCB)
  - a. Self Advocacy
  - b. Work Readiness
  - c. Financial Literacy
  - d. Self-Directed IEPs
  - e. Post Secondary Exploration
- B. SC Department of Education, Office of Special Education Services (OSES)
  - a. Capable and Ready! lessons
  - b. Healthy Relationships
  - c. Disability Pride and History
  - d. Teacher Requests related to post-school outcome success

# South Carolina Youth Leadership Forum



- A. Developmental Disabilities Council
  - a. Partner with 2 sister CILs
  - b. Collaborate with local organizations that offer inclusive and adaptive opportunities
  - c. Local, State and National legislators and lawmakers
  - d. Disability Rights Activists and Advocates



Equip



- A. Developmental Disabilities Council
  - a. Equip Functions
    - i. Monthly hangouts
    - ii. Summer Series
    - iii. One on One Peer Mentoring
  - b. Young Adult Leaders on Able SC Staff
    - i. Equip Leader Responsibilities



# Equip for Future Success

- A. Regional United Way
  - a. 6 classroom visits focused on job and career awareness
  - b. Led by a young adult staff member with disabilities
  - c. Incorporated Able SC staff members visiting to speak to their experiences of jobs and careers



# Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for Elementary Students

- A. Department of Education, OSES
  - a. COVID-19 Specific
  - b. Continuing this work
  - c. Based on researched SEL
    - i. Sanford Harmony
  - d. Included an all ages Mindfulness and Yoga



# Peer Mentoring and Independent Living Skills

Equip

and

Partnering with our  
PTI

- A. Multiple Funding Streams
  - a. Informal peer mentoring with Equip Leaders
  - b. Formal Independent Living skill and goal work as a consumer



# Who and Why?

Who are we talking about when we say “youngest youth” and why do we need to serve them?



# Who are We Talking About?

- Elementary Students
  - ◆ K-5 grade
  - ◆ 5-11
- Middle Schoolers
  - ◆ 6-8 grade
  - ◆ 12-14





# Why?

- Disability Awareness
- Self-Directed Services
- Habits and Learned Behaviors



# Disability Awareness

- Acknowledging and understanding that you are an individual with a disability
  - ◆ Understanding what disability is
  - ◆ may include awareness and education around a specific disability
  - ◆ may include awareness of other disabilities around you
- Builds personal disability pride
- Builds reliancency
- Supports self-awareness and self-advocacy skills



# Self Directed Services

- Individualized Education Plans
  - ◆ Participating in these early
  - ◆ Meaningful engagement
  - ◆ Understanding of long term goals and impacts
  - ◆ Understanding of service navigation
  - ◆ Safe environment to catch and redirect self-advocacy skills to be most effective



# Habits and Learned Behavior

- Easy to teach good habits rather than break bad ones
- Burden of unlearning
- Disparity or gaps in opportunities
- Decision Making



# Questions?



**Thank You!**

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Paige Maxwell  
Director of Youth Transition Services  
[pmaxwell@able-sc.org](mailto:pmaxwell@able-sc.org)  
864-235-1421x308

Asha Jones  
Equip Leader  
[ajones@able-sc.org](mailto:ajones@able-sc.org)  
803-779-5121

[www.able-sc.org](http://www.able-sc.org)