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AUCD-TA Institute-(T/TH) (USAUCD0104A)

SARAH DEMAIO:

Welcome back to the final day of the 2021 UCEDD Technical Assistance Institute. Over the last two weeks, we have covered the three most pressing issues relating to the UCEDD network, responding to the pandemic, responding to calls of racial justice, and today's we will discuss crosscutting considerations between all three of these issues.

First, I have a very few brief housekeeping items, especially for those who are just joining us today.

I wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that the materials for today's event are available on the website, and were emailed to you in advance.

I also want to make sure that everyone knows that we are recording the event. It will be available in the event archive afterwards. We are also live captioning, but unfortunately, we are having some difficulties connecting the captioning with our Zoom platform, so there is a link in the chat box if you would like to access -- captions.

If you have any technical difficult is, Anna and Katie from our team are available in the chat. Anna's email is on the screen, and you can reach out to her by email as well.

We will use Mentimeter to allow participants to recommend specific topics for the breakout rooms, to be set up for the last half hour of today's time. You can use the QR code that is visible on your screen, or you can go to [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter 2120 10663 to access the poll.

We will be putting this information into the chat so that it will be accessible for you as we proceed now through the rest of our very full agenda for the day.

Speaking of our agenda, you see it on her screen. Very shortly I will hand the mic over to John Tschida who will introduce our keynote speaker for the day. Following the keynote, we will have a set of updates from OIDD and then go to breakout rooms.

Following the breakout discussions, we will come back to the plenary space to share some action statements and resources to address the crosscutting issues, using Mentimeter, before we close out the formal portion of the PA Institute at 5:30 PM Eastern.

And at last half hour, again, will be available for those who are interested in self-directed networking time, you can mix and mingle in open spaces, or attend one of the topical discussion groups that are audience proposed, using the current Mentimeter poll.

Without further delay, I am going to hand the stage over to AUCD's Executive Director John Tschida to introduce our keynote.

JOHN TSCHIDA:

Thanks, Sarah. Welcome everyone. We are grateful to have Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging at ACL, Alison Barkoff, here today. As many of you know, she spent her career as a champion of the disability community, both within and outside of government. Most recently she was at the centre for representation before joining ACL.



She has held positions at the Department of Justice and labour, as well as within CMS, and worked at a number of years at the (Unknown term) Centre for mental health in law. She has a deep understanding of context policy issues. So welcome Alison, and thank you for joining us today.

ALISON BARKOFF:

Thanks, John. It is so nice to see some faces and old friends. I've had a chance to work with a lot of UCEDDs across the country, and I'm excited to see the faces of my AUCD colleagues, who I have spent many years at tables advocate in with. I specifically want to call out my friend Liz, who I have not seen in a few weeks. I'm glad that Tuesdays with Liz is on its way back. It is the highlight of my week. So thank you.

I will give a little bit more about my background, seek and see how approach this work. I will talk a little bit about some of the commitments I have coming into ACL specifically, and as the keynote was supposed to be, talk but if you administered in priorities and what they mean for AUCD and the UCEDD network.

I am a really privileged to have joined the ministry and for community living on an operation day. My permanent job is as principal deputy. In that role, I have the privilege of helping the organization and really serving as the key disability policy lead for the administration for committed living.

An important piece of ACL is not only the incredible programs we administer, but when ACL was formed, it created a role for the leadership of ACL to serve as the advisor to the Secretary of HHS on disability issues. And friendly, ACL has become a convening table, and really is an advisor across the federal government.

So I am really excited to be in that role, bringing my background and experience.

When I look at the mission of ACL, which is supporting opportunities for community living for all, that really has been my own personal and professional life mission.

Like many of you, we get involved in disability in part, for many people, because of connections.

40 years ago, I entered the disability world in a completely different time. As a sibling, when Evan was born, at a time when families like mine were told that there was no place for people with intellectual and to develop mental disabilities in the commune today. We were told to place Evan in an institution.

Because of the work of some of the people I see on this screen who opened the door for kids to be able to be in school, Evan was born two years after the previous iteration of the IDA.

My family is able to be the first generation of families that said that we would keep Evan at home. That we would build arrival image in that community. And what my parents said they wanted for Evan was the same things they wanted for me and my sisters, and gave him, as he grew, the same opportunities for self-determination and choice in his life.



That has been imbued me throughout my entire life.

On the policy side, I have been part of helping to create the system that we have to support people with intellectual and develop mental disabilities to live, work, and fully participate in their committee.

But I also view our work through a civil rights lens. People have a civil right, people with disabilities, to be part of their communities. To make decisions about their own lives. I have spent much of my career and forcing the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Supreme Court (Unknown term) decision, knowing that this is not only the right thing to do, this is what people want and that it leads to better outcomes, but that people have civil and human rights to community living.

As John mentioned, I have come in and out of government several times. There is no one place in the federal government that owns disability. There is no department, either. This is about access to services, and inclusive education, and transportation, and housing, and employment.

I have always approached this work in a real inter-agency way, and to bring that with me to this work.

The last thing I will say is, I have a long history of working with the networks that are in ACL. Again, it is great to see so many faces.

I come in knowing the incredible value you bring, the changemakers you are in your states, the partnerships you have, the leaders that you are. I feel so privileged to be working with you now in a different vantage point.

The commitments that I bring to ACL is, number one: we are here to help support your work. You do incredible work, and our job is to help you be effective.

We have an incredible team at AOD. We have Jennifer Johnson, who is the deputy commissioner, David Jones. As I am sure that people know, we have already had some transitions, but we have to be focused on the mission, on moving forward, and there is no disruption to our work as a team. We have too many pressing challenges and opportunities that we as a community have to face.

So again, strong support for our networks. Having been someone who has spent most of my career being an outside advocate, I know that we have to be listening to the community.

I cannot do my role in representing the priorities and challenges of the disability community, if we are not engaging stakeholders. If we are not listening, if we are not making sure that it is a diversity of stakeholders. People with disabilities themselves, certainly our networks, family members.

I will talk in a minute about equity, but we are really committed to making sure that the diversity that exists in our community, cross disability, racial diversity, language, all of that has to be part of what informs our work.



I am hugely committed to doing that. I have not yet had a day that has not been filled with several stakeholder meetings. I am committed to transparency and engagement across the board.

The last thing is, we are one ACL. The brilliance of ACL when it was created 10 years ago, we will have our 10 year anniversary coming up, was bringing together aging and disability.

Disability crosses the lifespan. There is so much synergy between the disability and aging communities, between our networks. I think we are really looking for ways that we can facilitate some of those connections, but we can take some of the great work happening in the aging world and make sure that the disability world is familiar with it, and vice versa. And we will really want your feedback on that.

When I spoke to the (Unknown term) CEOs a few weeks ago, I was hearing from them that this is already happening and many states. The networks and the aging networks, thinking about how we will work together and expand community-based services.

But we would really welcome your feedback on how ACL can facilitate that.

In terms of priorities, my last stint in the federal government at the beginning of administration, sometimes we are challenged with what the priority should be. You get to say where you want to go. Walking in on January 20 during a pandemic, after 11 months of our community yelling, literally, at the top of our lungs as advocates, we are invisible. We are being left behind, we are so impacted and the policies are not responding to our needs.

There is one thing that clearly had to be the top priority, and it has been, which is COVID, COVID, COVID, and COVID.

I was thrilled, in my first few days in this new role, to see a national strategy come out from the Biden Harris administration, and a whole set of executive orders.

For anyone who has read those 200 pages, I hope that your advocacy, that you feel vindicated to see all of the areas where disability is mentioned.

Everything from the risks of people and congregant settings, ensuring vaccine access, the caregiving and professional workforce, getting access to PPE. How do we make sure that people with disabilities are part of our future planning about emergencies? And on and on.

HHS has been charged with implementing many of these executive orders. And as a leadership team at ACL, we decided that we do not have a lot of staff, but we are going to be at every single table that impacts people with disabilities. What that meant is that we raised our hand and we are literally and 20 workrooms across HHS. Professional workforce that we have to be raising.

It has been an incredible commitment. I want to call out having seen, both on the outside and inside, the incredible work that the UCEDDs have been doing on the ground. This is a real focus



on vaccine access and you all have been leaders in your state and advocacy, and I really want to call out the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the incredible work you have been doing.

In plain language, in working with Administration on Community Living (ACL) and we are doing everything to lift that up. I hope people heard the announcement by the President himself.

We went from being invisible, to being we are like a centerpiece of this administration's priorities and on Monday, in an announcement around expanding vaccine access, he announced that \$100 million that we were able to get from CDC to push out to our networks.

The reason we were able to do this, and I really want to thank you, I have been able to lift up the great work you are doing. Saying if we could get more resources they could do more. Without more resources this is taking away from the many other crucial COVID-19 things that you all are doing. I really want to say thank you, thank you for all the work you are doing. Believe me, I wish the 4 million was 400 million that was going to the UCEDD network. But please, I know that you all really help us lift up that, and this will make a difference.

And really, in getting shots in arms to the people who are most impacted and most vulnerable. I think we are very focused on reaching the people who are hardest to reach. People who don't have family or a close network who will be able to help them access. People in underserved communities, so thank you for the incredible work you will be doing there.

There is so much great work that you are doing and please keep sharing it with us, and we will keep sharing it on our websites. I want to call out in particular the great work that the Centre on Dignity and Healthcare is doing throughout.

This is the University of Cincinnati that has this dashboard that has been tracking, and you have done an incredible job expanding on each issue we are facing. Other issues and you have been so well represented and I know that Carol has been engaging with the White House COVID-19 task force and I was able to be part of a presentation she did and so well representing. Not only the UCEDD network but the disability community. Thank you so much.

We have been working nonstop with our partners in CDC and the White House and the COVID-19 task force, and this will continue to be a priority and just want to thank all of you. We are partners in this together.

The second piece that I want to touch on, and you know I feel really lucky not only to be able to say this as a priority, but when they say, "Put your money where your mouth is", the administration did this yesterday when we are talking about economic recovery.

As someone who has been working in trying to expand home and community-based services, and trying to address the institutional bias that exists in our system. Trying to think about the literally over half a million people sitting on waitlists every day, to have an administration that is highlighting caregiving as an economic issue and an equity issue that we must take on to recover out of the pandemic is incredible.

I assume most people saw that yesterday in an infrastructure plan, where people are thinking



and we are talking about roads and bridges, to think about our healthcare system. Our long-term services and supports as a direct infrastructure need is incredible.

The biggest chunk in this \$2 trillion plan is \$400 billion to strengthen home and community-based services, and the workforce that provide those supports. It is pretty incredible. There is a whole lot...

The president putting out his proposal is not the same as Congress putting out a bill and passing something, but I feel so privileged to be in a space where we can be thinking big and bold about how we move forward. In the care space, in the community living space, and really do some things that I think even six months ago, never seemed possible. That is on top of just and now the weeks are blending together, three weeks ago \$12.7 billion investment in the American rescue plan for home and community-based services.

I think we are finally and again I want to thank all of you for your non-stop advocacy and highlighting how crucial it is that we support people throughout this pandemic and after. To be in their own homes and to be in their own communities and I think the risks of institutional and congregate settings has never been more clear. Thank you so much for that.

The last thing I want to touch on and I do want to make sure we leave time for questions and answers, is the third priority of the administration which is really focused on equity. I see (name) here and I know you have been such a incredible leader inserting equity for such a long time into the work that we are all doing. Thinking about those intersection ologies for people who have disabilities and the different experience people have if they are disabled person of colour, if they are a disabled person who comes from a family that may not have English as their first language and a person with a disability who lives in poverty. We are trying to take a step back and some sense, it is incredible that the focus from the administration on equity certainly centres racial justice but has a real intersectional lens. One of our jobs in Administration on Community Living (ACL) is as you are thinking about equity think about disability. That is our job to say make sure we are in your lens. I think for us we are looking at our programs and saying how can we emphasize the racial justice peace? Our lens has always been disability and aging but how can we look at these different pieces. We are certainly thinking about it within our programs and networks and really want to learn from you all about what you are doing and how we can lift that up and bring that across our networks. We are thinking about our research arms and I have to say, with neither and others, we know from our experience the disparities that exist in accessing and the different experience families have and people with disabilities who come from communities of colour, we don't have the data to show that yet. I would love to work with you, you all are the perfect blend of the policy people and the on the ground practice and researcher types who can help us really think about how do we bring together an agenda to move this forward and think long-term. I know you all are doing so much to in this area and I know that there is a cooperative agreement with Rush University around intellectual and (inaudible) disabilities and I think we are looking at what is everything we can do to our and and the work that you are doing around cultural competency.

We don't need to re-create wheels, we need to pull together what it is we are doing and how can we take this to the next level?



I know that within the UCEDD's there are a lot of institutions and how can we build off some of those relationships, and so with the caveat that I think we might be on my 70th day in the job, I am trying to assess what is out there that we can really build from.

I will just close by saying, I am thrilled to be here and I know just from so many years of working with all of you, the incredible work that you do, and we are here to support that.

There is an incredibly committed team and we are looking forward to a really incredible collaboration. There is finally a light at the end of the tunnel, this last year has been the hardest year for anyone who has any connections in the disability world. It has been heartbreaking and crushing to see what it has meant for the lives of people with disabilities. We are going to have some incredible lessons learned from this. There are disasters, there are things that we know will happen and hopefully next time, we will be better prepared.

I think it also gives us an opportunity to think about what do we want to change? We don't want to go back to what the world was like before. I think that combination of re-visioning, rethinking, and these incredible opportunities that we are being presented with, because of the commitment from the administration, from Congress and moving forward, I think some of our priorities in a way that we have never had before.

I am really excited about what the next year or two or four or eight or 12 might look like, and really moving in such a big and bold way.

I will stop there and open it up for questions if we have time. I think we have another five minutes or so.

I know that my colleagues from Administration on Disabilities (AOD) are speaking afterwards. So don't ask me any questions about how grants or reporting works. Wrong person. Any kind of big picture administration priorities are how we can collaborate, I welcome some questions.

JOHN TSCHIDA:

We did get a question in advance. If people want to put big picture questions in the chat box we do have five minutes so please do that.

ALISON BARKOFF:

I think the two questions on some of this... I think some of these were about some grants and how to leverage those so I think David and Jennifer might be better for these two questions. I will talk about on the CDC grants and Jennifer and David can talk a little more about how we will get those out. The goal is to get those out as quickly, quickly quickly as possible. I want to flag for people situational awareness. In addition to the direct funding there has been a real interest in how do we help connect people to resources? I know we have heard that a lot of people have said there is nowhere to call, it is very uneven in different states and communities. We have the resource called eldercare locator and it has pivoted to case manage. It is not just about how do we get you an appointment and it is about what do you need to get there? Are you someone who is not able really to leave your home and we need to connect you with a mobile vaccination. We have funding to test this out and expand to the disability world. We will build off, this was all about how do we move really quickly so we will be infusing that end by bringing in



some new piece workers who have disability competencies over the next two or three weeks. We will put in resources, referral resources at the local community level. We will want to partner with all of you on that to make sure we are populating that. More information to come but that is another resource. I was hearing people call 211 getting sent to 911 and this is how you would be getting a vaccine? I knew we had to try some other strategies. I want to put that piece out there and it is different than what Jennifer and David will talk about and how to get you your direct money but to flag for your situational awareness this resource that we are really going to want you to help get the word out on once we have a little more infrastructure up to start taking a bunch of new calls.

SPEAKER:

I really don't have a question but I could not stay in my seat from listening to the excitement that is in your voice and hearing what you are saying and it is so appreciated and I loved what I heard and I am sure some of my colleagues across the country I am Derek Willis the director of the University of Iowa... I feel excited about your enthusiasm and the things that I am hearing from your administration and we are here to help work with you as we serve the people that need us the most.

ALISON BARKOFF:

Thank you.

SPEAKER:

I hope that we can make "Build back better" mean person centred services, not just get back to what we used to do, which was not working and is not in the spirit of what we are about.

There is so much about getting people out of their homes, but I think we have to adopt a unifying message about that, and then helping people find ways to do that in the context of whatever health limitations are continuing.

ALISON BARKOFF:

Deborah, it is always great to see you.

I would just say, I have had a chance to work with a lot of you, and will call out Angela in particular. For people that do not know, I have spent the last seven years in the (Unknown term), and I know that so many of you have been engaged in implementing that in your own states. I think it is an important tool to keep thinking about, in terms of pushing individualized support, choice around people living in their own homes. Even in the jobs plan that came out yesterday, moving away from sheltered workshops to competitive, integrated employment has been a priority of this administration.

We have already seen several pieces of legislation that did not make it through on the American Rescue Plan, but it is out there again, ending minimum wages in the job plan.

To the extent that this is about moving away from legacy programs that are congregant. There are opportunities now, many providers had to make this switch because of COVID because of social distancing and safety requirement.



I know a lot is happening in states about hey, instead of just reopening your sheltered workshop or day program, let us help you stay in this mode.

So I agree, I and thinking where then you have every single policy lever to move that forward. I would love to continue to work with you on all of that.

I know that every time there is an opportunity to comment in your own states... And Denise has been an incredible advocate of the UCEDD networks, and pushing information out when it is out. So I will give Denise props.

And I'm sure that even in my absence, you are continuing to play that incredible role with the coalition, so thank you.

SPEAKER:

Thanks Alison. As you think about equity, I am seeing question in the chat box, recognizing that we represent not only the states but their territories as well. I know you are aware of the disparities there, the inequity, especially when it comes to funding programs like Medicaid.

ALISON BARKOFF:

And I would say that is on the radar. There are pieces that can be changed within an administration, and some require congressional change, and I have seen this on the radar when people are talking of an equity.

So more to come on that. I think that for the Medicaid space, people understand some of the statutory limitations and or maybe working on strategies to put them on the radar of Congress as they are thing about that.

JOHN TSCHIDA:

I think we will have to leave it at that. Thank you, Alison, very much, for your time and enthusiasm today. It may not be 70 days, but you have hit the ground running.

ALISON BARKOFF:

Thank you.

JOHN TSCHIDA:

I appreciate the speed with which you are trying to get grants out the door as well. Great to see you are at many of the big tables, having those important conversations. Thank you.

ALISON BARKOFF:

Thank you for all that you all do. I think someone may have asked for my email address. It is alison.barkoff@acl.hhs. Open-door policy for sure. This is not the past, this is the first. Thank you for letting me be here. It is great seeing 70 friends.

JOHN TSCHIDA:

Sarah, I will go back to you.

SARAH DEMAIO:



Thank you. I will head over to David Jones, the director of the office of intellectual's ability. As Alison mentioned, he will be speaking a little bit about, were concretely about the work that OIDD is doing to support the use had network. Thank you for joining us.

DAVID JONES:

Thank you for the AUCD team for having a great conference. Whenever I call them, they give great advice. So I want to acknowledge them and say thank you to the AUCD team.

I'm actually off today, but I could not pass up the opportunity to connect with the UCEDD. I drove from Alexandria Virginia to my parents home in Virginia. I left at 6:45 AM and thought about some of the things I wanted to share today.

I first want to mention that I have not had an opportunity to engage with all of you yet. I have been engaging with the UCEDD involved with the community-based transition partnership Grant, but there are 58 others, so I'm glad to have the opportunity to connect with all of you.

I would love to share a little bit about myself. I am the director of OIDD, and we oversee 68 UCEDD. Also the (unknown term) councils, and the presidential (unknown term).

I follow in the shoes of Jennifer Johnson, big shoes to fill. I'm so grateful to learn from her every day.

Earlier in my career, I worked at United Way of America. That is where I learned the power of community. After I left, I entered government. As the Corporation for National and community service I saw the power of volunteerism and community. That really shaped me a lot, in terms of how I think about the world.

I served at the Department of Treasury, and saw the role of (inaudible) in the community. I served at the department of education, and it seen the power of universities, and how vocation can improve the lives of people with disability. I also served at the departed of labour, and it seen the power of the American job centre to begin to be more inclusive to serving people with disabilities.

This is my 20th year in government. The time went by fast. But I am so grateful that I can help carry out the mission of ACL, because I feel like we are going full-circle and going back to serving community. So I am very grateful to be connecting with all of you today.

To preface the presentation today, I will focus on the past, present and future if you go to the next slide...

I thought we would focus a little on the 2019 PPR data. Because we must inform Congress a better work, and also inform leadership like Alison Barkoff about our work. And also it is a good opportunity to know about ourselves.

A reminder that July 30 is your next PPR deadline. So thank you for preparing for that. Thank you for all of the good data that you share.



On this first slide, this focus is on 2019 activities. I do not think this is too surprising, we found that 74% is built on capacity building. That in itself is what we do. We are strengthening community.

The one area where I think it is an opportunity is systemic change, and we see right now that 10% is focused on systemic change. As we know, the past year with COVID-19, we are very much seeing a paradigm shift. Especially with the role of technology.

We are seeing it on the health side, how telehealth affects how people connect with their doctors. And also we see how teleworking is kind of connecting people to keeping our business going. We are seeing the paradigm shift out there. And I think we may see an increase in the number over the next year.

We have started to rethink how we do business every day. There was a quote I came across one time and it said someone like this, and it speaks to where we are in our era: there are decades when nothing happens, and weeks when decades happen.

Believe it or not, it comes from a Russian leader focused on the revolution, but I do think it does reflect the moment we are in. We can really rethink and reshape how we do business, especially as we think about being more inclusive for people with disabilities.

This next one is focused on UCEDD activities by areas of emphasis. The leading one is education at 32%. We know that UCEDD are involved at their learning institutions, in the University business.

We have health at 21%. I know a lot of our UCEDDs are affiliated with hospitals.

Other as 10%, and I will look at that more. I got this data recently, and I want to know more about that other category.

On this particular chart, I see in opportunity again as it relates to employment. Right now, we are at 9% in terms of areas of emphasis.

Serena (Name), who you know, she is a former ACL staffer, and we used to work together when she served at (Unknown term). We communicated at 630 this morning, surprised that this number was not higher. So we Believe that this is an opportunity to rethink how we get people employed.

In 2020, 17.9% of people with disabilities were employed, and that is a very low number, and there is a big opportunity in terms of thinking about telework. We can increase that number. And there is great work being done in Georgia, two of the Georgia UCEDDs are focusing on autism, making sure that there is seamless autism tween the universities and the workforce. So shout out to Georgia UCEDDs for your good work. They are affiliated with community-based transition partnership grants.

On this one, I will not spend too much time. It is focusing on progress measures. It focused more on outputs, and I like focusing on outcomes. But it does show the magnitude of our



impact.

You will see here that number when, as it relates to the PA program, 627,000 participants in continuing education, roughly 400 when he 7000 in research and education, and whatnot. So we are impacting a lot of lives out there.

What I am most impressed by his the dollars leveraged by UCEDDs. 598 million. That is a testament to how we leverage our resources smartly. That is an impressive number.

This is probably the most important slide. One of the things I really like to focus on is the customer. At the end of the day, our mission is to serve. I have seen that in great business models with Apple, in terms of how they listen to the needs of the customer, and how the customers keep coming back. That is ultimately what we wanted to do.

When I see these numbers, and see that 71% report being highly satisfied by the UCEDD, that is a great number. And I want to say thank you. That is based on 18,000 (inaudible) surveys sent. So that is a great thing.

I thing I heard on the first day when I was able to participating, these are numbers, and the most impactful thing we can do is share stories.

That is what someone in Congress were member, and were someone in community will remember. So while we shared numbers today, it will be the stories, at the end of the day, that will show impact.

Let's move to the present. I want to focus on current funding and new opportunities.

When I came on board, I wanted to hone in on and keep my eye on was how do we increase engagement, and how do we increase visibility of our work?

UCEDD is doing such great work that I want to be able to start highlighting and promoting your work to a much broader audience. That is why I am so happy that I can be engaging today.

In terms of funding, right now Congress and fiscal year 2021, 42.1 million. That is about a \$500,000 increase from the year before. It is always a good thing to get more funding and outlets, so I'm happy to see that.

The next item. This is something Congress is interested in, the UCEDD community-based transition partnership Grant. There is much congressional support for this. I will give some historical context, in fiscal year 2020, Congress appropriated \$1 million, and from that what we did was we had a discretionary grant competition, where 10 UCEDDs received \$100,000 to do what you call a planning grant.

I read to those proposals, and I loved them. I had this great opportunity to engage with those 10 UCEDDs in September when we kicked off, and in December. What we found was that from those 10 planning grants, there were 10 categories you could group them and – not exacting, but you saw a health equity focus, and opponents focus, and we saw a focus strengthening the



community.

Those of the different areas, if you were to kind of look.

I do think it is a testament of how well that has been going that in fiscal year 2021, Congress appropriated more money for this effort, and it is 1,500,000. I will leave it at that with what the language has said. I will not go into detail, in terms of the next steps. But I can assure you that staff are working hard, and that please keep an eye out for a notice of a funding opportunity announcements.

So we are excited to be building on this further.

When we divide the appropriate for our UCEDDs, they each receive (inaudible) for each Centre. For 2021, there are only going to be to UCEDDs that will submit their five-year grant applications, and so I know, I believe in 2022, there will be a much higher number.

But in 2021, to UCEDDs that will submit to their five-year application.

There is a cause I formula in terms of when that five-year cycle is out, because of that we are projecting a due date of June first, with the (inaudible) to occur later in June.

Staff have informed me that for the continuing physical application, which are due on May 1, 70% of the UCEDDs have completed that. So thank you.

As you know, Alison Barker said as well, this week we announced a new partnership between ACL and CDC. In being you, one of the things I'm told is that this was unprecedented. We have not received such funding from another agency before, and so I really feel privileged to be part of this movement within the start of our new administration, to really help roll this out. We have been burning the midnight oil, and we are very excited to roll it out.

I thing this is a testament to Alison Barkoff's leadership on the importance of collaboration. I feel that her advocacy and support has really helped ACL get us to where we are this week.

So ACL will be receiving \$100 million to strengthen the aging and disability network, and it really is an opportunity to transform the way we do business in our communities.

As it relates to UCEDDs, we will be receiving 4 million that has been allotted.

On the slide here, consistent with what you got in the email from Pam, these are the key activities that are allowable for the funding. And possibly, as the notice of award it may go into more detail. But you will see a common theme, it is focused on breaking down their ears for access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Yesterday I got my shot, and I saw person with a disability, and as all the challenges they had going to the line. I did provide support, but it reflect on the importance of making sure that there is support for people with disabilities to get their COVID-19 shot.



In terms of next steps, we are going to have the Federal Register notice go out. It does take time for things to get posted, so look out for that next week.

We are not making this complicated, UCEDDs will have an opportunity to submit a letter of assurance that these activities will be completed, and also any reporting requirement. At the end of the day, we have to report to the CDC, but we don't want this to be a burdensome process.

UCEDDs do have the option not to submit a letter of assurance, and that is fine, too. But we want to make sure that those that want to get funds can get the funds, and that is what ultimately we are seeking to do.

Another emerging opportunity that is happening right now is our disability employment TA Centre.

We are currently, the disability implements TA Centre is one of our key focus enters within AOD, achieving economic security and mobility. That is something we are honing in on, as we try to build back the economy better.

I believe that Deborah (Name), referring to that point, and I want to acknowledge the point that you made earlier.

One of the things that is really nice about the way we are organized in AOD under Jennifer Johnson's leadership, we are not working in silos.

With the achieving economic security and mobility which I am leading, it is a cause I team of AOD, so we have folks from many organizations and we are sharing each other's resources, focused on a common goal.

This is kind of the approach of the TA centre itself. It is funded by the jargon back counsel, the UCEDD, dramatic brain injury, and the IL program. Same thing we are time to do as the national, break down the silos and work towards a common goal.

We can learn something from the UCEDDs, so we want to make sure that the information can be interchangeable so that we can all support each other and build back the economy better.

One of the ways that we are doing that is using technology.

We have a new TA website that will launch, actually last month, we are already in April, and that is a website using their. We are very excited. We are taking small steps every day, but we hope that we can make this resource helpful to the UCEDD community, so that you can learn what other programs within AOD are doing.

We also have a representative. This was an email that I shared with the UCEDDs back in December, and I wanted to shout out to Robin Jones from the University of Illinois, and Jill Pleasant from northern Illinois University. They both volunteered to be on the workgroup, as well as with other programs from the (unknown term) counsel, to help guide our work moving forward.



They will be working on different plans going forward, and I want to thank you both.

There will be a community of practice webinar affiliated with the TA centre, and finally, the TA cohort activity full stop I want to highlight that beyond just sharing.

This is one way that the TA centre will provide specialized TA support. It's an example of how we are providing specialized support, based on needs that surface to support the (unknown term) counsel, and how to implement that. That is something we wanted to make sure you are aware of. I really feel kind of speaks in a moment of time when we can really One of the things I am very passionate about is technology. One of my favourite books is written by the CEO of Microsoft, and they talk about how technology can be linked to empathy.

I think that is something we can do, especially as we think of technology as more inclusive. I know it talks a lot about computing, AI, and that is really neat to see how you can really think boldly and big in that era.

Let's innovate together. In following Alison's lead, we want to think boldly. We also want to thing about what we can test together.

Something I would like us to do in the UCEDDs is share new ideas, motivate. I think we had about five meetings and we put them off into different regions. The reality is, when you get the councils together it is very hard to have dialogue because there are so many people in the room and you can hear everyone's voice.

We divided it into different smaller groups based on regions, and what we found ourselves doing in the thick of COVID-19 is having every meeting focused on COVID-19 with a slightly different bent.

We had one regional meeting focused on mental health in COVID-19 and disaster preparedness in COVID-19 and virtual assessment for students. Any of the students in schools are used to in person assessment, which now in the virtual environment, how does that look differently?

We have received great resources to think about that, and we had that dialogue with the DD councils. It was a neat opportunity to share information and what we heard from the Council was they loved it. It was an opportunity for pure learning to occur. A lot of times, the states neighbouring each other didn't know what the neighbouring state was doing. This is what we would like to do for the UCEDD. For our team as well, to really get to know and engage with you more over the coming months.

What we are hoping to do is break out by regions, and we have 68 UCEDD so we can have everyone in the same room, but we will have regions one and two have a meeting in May, and then three and four a meeting in June.

We want to make sure that this is of value to you. One of the things that we will be doing after today's webinar or tomorrow, whenever there is time, they will share a survey. In that survey,



there are five simple questions. We would like to get feedback from you on timing, but also it would be neat to know if there is something that UCEDD is doing that they are proud to share with their peers and with national that you would like to present. We would love to hear that.

At the end of the day, we do not want to create more work for you. We want to make this an opportunity for engagement and learning. That is ultimately what we are hoping to do. I think they are one step ahead of me, they shared the survey right now. We do appreciate if you could take the time to answer the survey questions, because we want to make sure this is valuable for everyone involved.

Program and fiscal contacts: on the program side, when I came on board Pam and Sean oriented me about the UCEDD, and I want to acknowledge and say thank you to them. Pam is your program lead.

One of the things that I have shared with the DD Council is that if your UCEDD is doing something innovative, especially in relation to COVID-19, please share it with your UCEDD liaison, and we have a mechanism with which we can track based on organization by state.

It has been a wonderful way when Jennifer Johnson asks what are they doing about COVID-19, we have great information to share. Please forward your good work to your program leads so we can continue to track. We also have Allison Cruz as our team lead and I serve as the director for the team.

These are our grant management folks. I did learn subsequent to this posting that Patricia Barrett has retired, so she should not be listed but please reach out to one of the others, and this is actually someone I used to work with, so she is an old colleague and the director of the fiscal grant management office.

So, I want to close off with a thank you, but also I thought I should close off with an inspiring story.

April is kicking off autism awareness month. One of the things that many folks may not know is that in 2017, autistic adults faced 83% unemployment rate in the US. I usually came across a Washington Post article that I read, and it was so inspiring that I wanted to share it with this community.

The article talked about how a young man named Brian Lowry an individual with autism. He posted on his LinkedIn page a handwritten note that his parents took a picture of and it was titled, "Take a Chance On Me". Basically, in that letter he said the following: he said, "I promise that if you hire and teach me, you will be glad you did."

He expressed his interest in working on animation. What happened was, he got such an overwhelming response on what he posted on LinkedIn, that it actually suspended his account. They thought something was wrong.

I think once again, that makes us realize how can the world of technology be used to increase awareness? Increase empathy? So many people were reaching out to Ryan and giving him



advice and tips, and I am sure he is doing quite well now, but he was so passionate that he is now helping other people with autism who gave him advice. That is very inspiring as a story.

One of the things he wrote in response to that inspiring story was- and he wrote it in a song, but these are the words. "Thank you for reading so I can keep dreaming, and thank you for seeing me for who I am. I only hope that people like me can have opportunities to take a chance on people like me. People you don't see in high places typically, take a chance, you will see all we can achieve when we choose to believe".

I thought that was a nice way to quote, and a beautiful quote from Ryan and a nice way to finish autism awareness month. I want again to say thank you to the UCEDD community, the team, and I look forward to engaging with you.

We look forward to being innovative and bold as we think about technology in all of the new things that are happening in this new world we live in. Thank you. I will open it for questions. I know I have gone on over time, and I don't want to delay your meeting, but thank you very much.

SARAH DEMAIO:

Thank you David I see a lot of people expressing their gratitude in the chat and this was very informative and inspiring presentation.

We are over time, if people have a chance ... We will move to our regional breakout time. To introduce some of the questions that we wanted to offer as potential discussion topics for the regional breakout, I will hand the mic to Jamie who is new to our team.

JAMIE KOENIG:

Hello everyone. Now we will make up by HHS regions, so we will discuss the cross-section and then changes with the new administration. We will work with advocacy and capacity building and relationships with community and university and collaborations in your region. We ask that you focus on strategies from the TA Institute but there are other items you would like to discuss as a region, these adjust your own agenda accordingly. It is your space to pursue the strategies that are most helpful for you as a region. When you get to the breakout rooms please designate someone as a facilitator and note taker. Staff will be spread out and will answer any questions that you have and Katie will remember -- remain in this room to help you if you need any help as you go. Some regions work in mind.

SARAH DEMAIO:

I also wanted to mention that once we start the breakout rooms, we will close them and move our agenda back a little bit. So we will close them right at 5:30 so we will have at least 25 minutes to get in the rooms and start discussing, and we might run over with our closings but we will do our best to save time at the end for the individual networking.

That being said, I think Katie will push us all to our rooms.



SARAH DEMAIO:

Welcome back. I hope that your regional breakout conversations were productive and engaging. I had a really interesting time listening to what was happening in regions 8 and 10.

We are going to wrap up the content of the TA Institute today with a final Mentimeter poll. But before we go to that, I want to give people just a last minute or so if you want to enter a recommendation for an audience generated breakout room topic to include in the networking session at the end of the day, you can do that on Mentimeter right now. For the next 22 minutes, we will have an optional breakout where you can navigate between rooms. You don't have to stay in the same room, you can move yourself from room to room.

Dawn will be doing office hours for the Morehouse Partnership Project.

Natalie will be available, hosting (Unknown term) office hours or data and reporting office hours, and I will office have an office hours room where you can ask me any question you like about UCEDD TA writ large.

We will have those rooms, and you can move yourself to any other rooms. There are fun working spaces, and also, we have one breakout room recommended about how to use the COVID money.

KATIE JOHNSON:

Sarah, I labelled it as COVID, so the use of COVID money, and someone wondered about vaccine hesitancy. Any COVID conversation will happen in the COVID room.

SARAH DEMAIO:

Thanks, Katie.

SARAH DEMAIO:

You should see an icon that looks like this, or it might be hidden in your three dots menu. You can see what breakout rooms are available, and you can select Join on the right hand side. We will go ahead and get to those breakout rooms started.

Before we go, I want to say thank you to ACL staff who were there to share resources and priorities. Thank you to all of the panelists and the whole duration of our TA Institute, and the present is.

Thank you to the TA Institute planning committee, and the team of staff who have been doing all of the magic behind the scenes while I am talking with you all. And especially thank you to all of the participants who have engaged in lively discussions and humorous as we engaged in new technology. Please her memory to complete the evaluation, so we know what we did well and how we can do better in the future. Alright, have a wonderful networking time and I will see you all soon.