

**Human Development Institute  
Fund For Excellence**

**Final Project Report/Summary**

Date of report: February 8, 2017

Primary Investigator Name: Carolyn B. Wheeler  
Primary Investigator email: carolynb.wheeler@uky.edu

Title of Project: Sibling Support: Building Capacity for a Kentucky Sibling Leadership Network Chapter

Project Start date: October 15, 2015

Project End date: December 15, 2016

Total FFE Project Budget: \$3,500.00

**Abstract**

In order to “grow” a Kentucky Chapter of the Sibling Leadership Network as a strategy of sibling support, an investment in local efforts to find and invite siblings to not only join the KY SLN Network but also to provide meaningful opportunities for siblings to gather, share information and “figure out” what makes sense for them in their local communities is the focus of this project. This was accomplished through mini-grants to organizations throughout Kentucky which have a focus on family support to encourage their recruitment of adult siblings to the KY SLN Chapter, as well as provide assistance in supporting siblings in whatever role, current or future, they have in their brother or sister’s lives. In addition, funding was made available to two adult siblings to attend the Ohio SIBS Conference in Columbus, Ohio as a leadership development opportunity as well as to provide concrete direction for the development of a similar event as part of The Arc of Kentucky’s Conference. Supporting siblings and their involvement in their brother or sister’s life is a critical element of “changing practice – changing lives” which is at the core of HDI’s mission.

**Brief summary of the goals of this project**

The goals of the project were to develop a Kentucky Chapter of the Sibling Leadership Network as a strategy for sibling support. The goals were to:

- 1) Grow KY SLN Chapter membership by at least 50 siblings across Kentucky
- 2) Establish a Board of Directors for the KY SLN Chapter who will take ownership for the activities of the Chapter
- 3) Establish at least four informal groups of siblings who connect quarterly either in person or via social media for support and information
- 4) Provide a sibling strand at The Arc of Kentucky Conference to educate family

members, self-advocates, siblings and professionals about the role of siblings and needs of siblings

- 5) Develop a website – volunteer has already agreed to do so for free

Brief summary of the outcomes/achievements resulting from this project

- 1) Sibling personally paid for design of logo for KYSLN
- 2) Sibling or Carolyn Wheeler has participated in national SLN quarterly conference calls
- 3) The Facebook page has grown to 120 members
- 4) Have established a Board, but has only met once via Conference Call
- 5) Four informal gatherings were organized, but very few people participated; one was via a Lync call and still only had two siblings participate
- 6) Event held after The Arc of KY Conference (#4 above) had 45 people attend, which was the most the room could hold; collaboration with The Arc of KY has been an effective strategy to promote the event as they paid to copy the brochure and included in mailing for the state-wide Conference
- 7) Dr. Sheppard-Jones agreed for funds to be used in March of 2017 for a similar event. Space was larger and the adult three adult siblings who have been most involved will be speaking on a panel
- 8) Website has been developed but needs content – [www.kysl.org](http://www.kysl.org)

Did any products (e.g., materials, manuscripts, technology) result from this project?

See attachments

Has, or will, additional funding (e.g., external grants) be sought to sustain the project?

Not at the present time.

Has or will the project be continuing beyond the period of Fund For Excellence funding?

FB page is the primary means of communication and the current administrators assist with postings of events with no cost. Carolyn Wheeler will personally pay the domain fee for the website for FY 18. At the present time, this activity (promoting the Chapter) is part of Carolyn's MJR on the Core funding. .