



**FILC**  
EMPOWERING PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES

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## MISSION STATEMENT

**The Florida IL Network promotes independence, full access,  
and informed choice for people with disabilities**

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

### Minutes

**Thursday, November 4, 2021**

**9:00-10:00 A.M.**

### *Committee Members:*

Whitney Doyle- FILC Council Member	Zachary Staubitz- Center for Independent Living (CIL) Youth Consumer- Ability 1st
Mira Gaitanis- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Alumni	Michael Timmons- Center for Independent Living (CIL) Youth Consumer- CIL Jacksonville
Max Gastelum- Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Alumni	Kim Dittman- Center for Independent Living (CIL) Youth Coordinator- Disability Achievement Center

*FILC Staff* - Sarah Goldman - Director of Youth Initiatives

### Committee Members Present

Whitney Doyle  
Mira Gaitanis  
Zachary Staubitz  
Michael Timmons  
Kim Dittman

### Committee Members Absent

Max Gastelum

### FACIL

Jane Johnson

### Public

Christy Shultz, Gulf Coast CIL

### Staff

Sarah Goldman

### Call to Order/Roll Call

Whitney Doyle opened the meeting and Sarah Goldman called roll.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved unanimously. The motion to approve was made by Mira Gaitanis and seconded by Michael Timmons.

### Approval of Minutes

The October 14, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve was made by Mira Gaitanis and seconded by Michael Timmons.

### Old Business

Mira Gaitanis offered a potential idea for the Centers to use. The company, The Fly Five, works on inclusion specifically for children with the focus on kids' comic books; it is a good platform to use for discussing those issues.

- Mira Gaitanis will forward information to the committee for discussion at the December meeting.

### New Business

#### Youth Leadership Forum Pre/Post Survey Data Review

- Sarah Goldman reviewed the presentation - **Florida Youth Leadership Forum, 2021 Pre/Post Data Report**. She went through the pre-survey and post-survey highlights. There were improvements in each of the categories following the forum.
  - Zachary Staubit asked if the percentages usually vary from year to year.
    - Jane Johnson responded that the results are similar and added the YLF is effective and can be life-changing for some people.
  - Jane Johnson asked about the numbers of people completing the pre- and post-surveys.
    - Sarah Goldman responded that there was 100% participation on the pre-survey as this was part of the process to attend and nine people completed the post survey. Sarah Goldman can provide survey access through Dropbox to committee members if requested. Mira Gaitanis mentioned the importance of everyone filling out both surveys to get the most accurate data. Sarah Goldman offered that next year, hopefully, this event will be in person so on the last day everyone can complete the post-survey.
  - Kim Dittman stated she liked the survey and grading scale with the smiley faces. Sarah Goldman stated that Vocational Rehabilitation provided the survey, and she added a couple questions.
  - Kim Dittman also asked about the 100% result for the career question as to how that number was determined.
    - Sarah Goldman stated the mentors were able to provide one on one attention to discuss potential careers which was a significant benefit to participants. This was one advantage of the virtual event.
  - Mira Gaitanis asked if people commented on their favorite presentations and other parts of YLF.

- Sarah Goldman showed the post-event survey on favorite and least favorite presentations as well as additional comments. She offered to compile the data and sent it to the committee. Mira Gaitanis stated it would be good to get full participation on this as well. One consistent response from participants was the desire for next year's YLF to be in person.
- Michael Timmons suggested a way to expand the career mentoring segment by combining in person and on-line formats to take advantage of mentors from around the U.S. Sarah Goldman noted that can be considered for next year. Jane Johnson told the group they could look at a way to do that on campus at FSU. She also asked that this post-survey be sent out to everyone.
- Zachary Staubitz suggested the need to improve use of social media for next year and offered to assist. Sarah Goldman stated she will look at that for next year.
- Mira Gaitanis mentioned there is an accessible computer lab on the FSU campus and offered to assist in partnering with them next year; maybe FSU could talk to our group about their resources. Jane Johnson stated computer facilities may be available in the dorms too, and she has already submitted an application for housing on campus. Mira Gaitanis stated FSU offers 3-D printing which can be helpful with assistive technology.
- Mira Gaitanis thought the disability history, law, etc. topics worked and were empowering. She added the topic of mental health and disability with coping strategies as tools for the toolbox. Sarah Goldman mentioned we can discuss further. Zachary Staubitz offered using games (learning) to keep everyone's attention. Sarah Goldman suggested use of team building. Michael Timmons stated zoom can be tiring and suggested hands-on activities. Sarah added that attendance in person is a different experience (on the go, interactive, ability to socialize, etc.) Mira stated she enjoyed the in-person experience. Mira Gaitanis stated the importance of using social media for communication. Whitney Doyle mentioned some people have difficulty sitting during lengthy presentations (consider other options) and use of hands-on activities. She added that she appreciates the excitement about social media, but not everyone uses this format; consider other tools. Jane Johnson stated the importance of having a clear strategy for use of social media.
- Zachary Staubitz asked Jane Johnson about the dates of the 2022 Youth Leadership Forum. Jane said she submitted an application to Florida State University for the last week of July (July 27-31, 2022) and is awaiting approval.

### 2022 Independent Living Conference

This conference is scheduled for next October, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

### Action Items from October Meeting (Sarah)

All items completed.

### Action Items (Sarah)

- Send materials prior to December meeting.
- Add agenda items for December meeting -
  - Company, The Fly Five, discussion.

- Social media – goals and options for people who do not use social media.
- 2022 Independent Living Conference.
- Compile post-event survey information and send out to the group.

#### Next Meeting

**Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 9 a.m.**

#### Public Comment

Christy stated she was going to mention using the hybrid model for career mentoring as previously mentioned.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned unanimously. The motion to approve was made by Mira Gaitanis and seconded by Michael Timmons. Meeting ended at 9:58 a.m.