MINUTES
ASH Redesign Peer and Family Work Group
Monday, January 27, 2022 • 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM • Conference Call

Agenda
1. Welcome
2. Updates on Peer and Family Communications
3. Sustaining Communication
4. Updates & Close

Attendees
Sydney Harris, Cory Morris, Darrin Acker, Parker LaCombe, Francela Brazil Williams, Felicia Mason-Edwards, Karen Ranus, Jodie Schultz, Peggy Perry, Dulce Gruwell, Sonja Burns, Colleen Horton

Minutes
Welcome
Group was welcomed and agenda reviewed.

Updates on Peer and Family Communications
HHSC provided status of current efforts around communications between ASH and peers/families. There is the Ombudsman’s office and surveys. Details on surveys were provided to the group along with participation rates. Discussed potential for creating an ASH Alumni network, idea is still in its infancy and not currently active. Discussed Friends of ASH Facebook page. Discussed monthly calls which are held monthly as a way to continue communication. There is a BHJAC Peer and Family sub-committee. Discussed how HHSC is working with partners to disseminate information. Shared information on a new website being created called PeerForce. Group discussed how different partners are interacting and utilizing PeerForce. A member brought up need to include communications with people with disabilities, such as the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Sustaining Communication
Group utilized jamboard to continue discussion around communications. The first question posed was “How can we increase opportunities for diverse forms of communication between peer and family members to HHSC and ASH?”. Group provided feedback and suggestions for this question. Group discussed current efforts within the deaf community for increased communication. Discussed what a potential app would look like and include, how it would be helpful for people who needed services. A member suggested creating a communication plan.

The next question the group discussed was “How can we increase opportunities for sustainable communication between peer and family members to HHSC and ASH?” The group suggested needing a specific position responsible for the communications piece. Group provided additional suggestions and feedback for how to sustain communication, both outgoing and incoming. Group discussed who should be included in the communications.
Group moved on to the next question “Are there organizations or efforts that communicate with HHSC and ASH in a way that could be more mildly modeled (ie peer force)?” Members gave recommendations based on previous discussion. Group discussed how communication can also be used to help prevent people from needing to utilize ASH.

*Updated and Close*