Phillip Kahn-Pauli: I’m really excited because of the generous support of the Long Beach Community Foundation and some other funders of ours that I can actually work on the practices side and really support folks in the community that are doing great work to do even better work so I’m in the process of working here in Long Beach with all of you-so glad you’re here. We’re also doing things in New York, we’re also doing things in Hollywood so we’re all over the place and so when we do introductions I want everyone to say who you are, what organization you’re from, what you want to learn from today and what you want to take away from today, so how’s that sound? I’m going to start on my right.

Sherry Beamer: Oh thank you! Hi, I’m Sherry Beamer, I’m with Work First EasterSeals Southern California, and I actually live in Long Beach. And I’m just here to learn, I don’t know what I want to take away. Whatever you give me.

Christopher Spencer: I’m Christopher Spencer, I’m an employment specialist at Social Vocational Services, and I don’t want-I want to learn everything from this. [Laughter]

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Good attitude.

Gabriel Palomares: I’m Gabriel Palomares, director of community development for Social Vocational Services, I’m also excited to be here and hoping we can get a lot of good stuff out of today’s meeting.

Mia Preciado: My name is Mia Preciado, I’m the employment specialist at Social Vocational Services, like everyone else I’m here to learn something.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Thank you.

Andrew Talley: My name’s Andrew, I’m with ICAN, I’m one of the job developers here, a few of us are here to network and learn what kind of resources we have and try and find jobs for \_\_\_\_.

Chris Casella: Chris Casella, also from ICAN, I’m a job coaching supervisor and I’m just here to be educated and understand more about RespectAbility.

Scott Elliott: I’m Scott Elliott, I’m also with ICAN, and it’s just an honor to be here to continue to expand our understanding of SEB programming not only in our small little window but across the state.

Jennifer Mercado: My name is Jennifer Mercado and I am here with the job development team for ICAN and I’m excited to be here to see what you guys have to bring to the table and network with everybody here.

Stephenie Kelley: My name is Stephenie Kelley also with ICAN [laughter] and I think we’re just here to learn and see what RespectAbility has for us.

Blake Van Steenberg: My name is Blake Van Steenberg, I’m the supporting employment program manager for ICAN - again [again from audience] I’m definitely anxious to learn what we can do practically to help increase the employment rate for people with developmental disabilities things that actually help get jobs we’re definitely looking forward to talking about.

Mike Karle: My name is Mike Karle, I am also from ICAN believe it or not, I’m a job developer there and just learning-looking forward to learning more about RespectAbility.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Just a quick question-who from ICAN isn’t here? [Laughter]

Sandra McElwee: I’m Sandra McElwee, I am the mother of a young man with Down syndrome who has his own business also has a job and [Inaudubile]

Lori Resnick Fleishman: Hi, my name is Lori Resnick Fleishman. I’m with the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. I am a senior director and I oversee our initiative on Living with Disabilities and special needs. And for 2018 we are doing a series on employment and accessing jobs so I’m here to learn and see if anyone wants to participate and basically just get to know everybody.

Kayla Crow: I’m Kayla Crow, I’m a job developer with AbilityFirst, and I grew up in Long Beach and I live here and I’m really excited to learn about different resources and opportunities that my current and my future clients will have - that I can strengthen for them so I’m here to build these bridges [Inaudibile]

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Thank you for being here.

Marianne Harris: My name is Marianne Harris, I’m a case manager with AbilityFirst and [\_\_\_\_\_].

Raul Munoz: Good morning. My name is Raul Munoz I am a USC MSW intern with Fiesta Educativa and I’m here to learn more about employment strategies that will further help employ people with diverse abilities. That’s really needed and appreciated.

Armida Ochoa: Good morning. My name is Armida Ochoa. I’m \_\_\_\_ from Fiesta Educativa and I’m here to learn about RespectAbility.

Sharon Nakamoto: Good morning, I’m Sharon Nakamoto and I’m from the Long Beach Unified School District and I’m here to learn.

Regina Todd: Good morning, I’m Regina Todd. I work for Long Beach Unified School District \_\_\_ program and I’m here to network and meet individuals who also work with students/people with disabilities to help them find different jobs locally.

Julie Givens: I’m Julie Givens and I’m also with ICAN-just kidding. [Laughter/crosstalk] I’m with Long Beach Unified and I’m excited to make connections so that we can bring back resources to our students.

Allison Brown: I’m Alison Brown, I’m with Long Beach City College disabled student office and I’m here to learn and get resources for my students.

Vivain Hsa: Hi, I’m Vivain Hsa. I’m with the California Charter Schools Association. I work on their special education policy team. I am here, like everyone else, to learn. I would love to learn specifically how to replicate these kind of multi partner local community collaboratives I think its so exciting. I’m also here to encourage you to please reach out or think about connecting with students who attend charter schools there are over 55,000 students with disabilities who attend charter high schools many of their teachers and administrators are hungry and yearning to connect with you guys and the services that you bring for their districts or agencies so I’d love to connect with you.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Alright. Delbert.

Delbert Whetter’s interpreter: Hi, my name is Delbert Whetter and I’m a business affiliate and I work at independent film-I have an independent film company and I’m excited to be here in long beach. And long beach has your own - has your own partnership. Oh! You have your own battleship [laughter] I do not love that. So thank you for inviting me here.

Jacquelyn Jaime: My name is Jacquelyn and I am with hillside enterprises. We’re actually just down the street here and we work on \_\_\_\_\_ facility so just here to learn how employers are really connecting with the community and we have an internship program we’re trying to help start and grow there.

Adam Young: My name’s Adam Young and I’m Jacquelyn’s colleague at Hillside and I’m here to learn some new strategies.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Wonderful, thank you all for being here. Quick from the doorway.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: Yeah so I’m Jennifer Mizrahi and I’m very honored to be the President of RespectAbility and to be here with all you amazing people who are on the front lines of helping people with disabilities get jobs. Phil Kahn Pauli is a superstar at this stuff and Debbie is the newest member of our team and really a liaison to partner with all of you especially here in Long Beach so we’re very excited to have her on the team. I know that we’re filming in the back and we have a team that helps us back in Washington on our work in Long Beach and I’m hoping that the shot you’re getting includes ASL, does it? Excellent. Because we want to be sure that everyone has access so I’m also just taping because there’s a lot of us who really care about the success of you guys in the community and not everyone could fly out from DC and we all want to know how we can be supportive and helpful and good partners in the future so let me turn it back to my colleagues.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Thank you everyone for being here, and first of all - as is the typical, you have to start with a lame joke. I’ll say this-I feel like I’m putting on a singles happy hour and only men showed up. [Laughter] So I do apologize we did do - we did a huge outreach push with local businesses and local employers. We talked to the chamber we talked to downtown long beach alliance and we got back “oh this is a great event but I can’t make it” and I think that’s a lesson and that’s an opportunity for us to reflect on “alright, how can we work together. How can we build out contact lists? How can we figure out what are all the industries that are growing..

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: can you stand up, ASL, so I can get you both

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: how do we build those connections together and that’s really what I hope to accomplish today. And since you’re close, Jennifer, can you also move the slides?

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: you bet. Excuse that I’m tall.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Well, we all care about people with disabilities, we all work on these issues and so it’s just important to remind us that this is a widespread challenge that one in five Americans has some sort of a disability. In total in Long Beach alone that means there’s a total of 46,000 people with disabilities and obviously a lot of the organizations here are directly connected to youth, you’re youth focused and that’s very very important because if we can intervene early in the young person’s life, give them skills, give them training, you all know this, it can set them on a path for success across their entire lifespan and that’s an idea that we’re going to come back to a lot when talking about all the different pieces that feed into ultimate success, ultimate connection with employers and they all begin with when we’re young. so next slide?

And it’s important to remember that in some way, everyone has some functional form of connection with disabilities whether you’re talking to an employer and you asked them do you have do you know anyone with a disability because odds are they’re going to have some connection and then if you have that kind of personal connection that can help you build that working relationship to really get people engaged, excited, and get folks jobs. So then next slide.

Again, I know this is pretty elementary stuff but its always important to think about the fact that there are visible disabilities and there are invisible disabilities and those conversations are when you talk about those differences its important it’s pretty easy for someone to think “oh, somebody has a wheelchair, you need a ramp to get into the business” they may not understand how a learning disability impacts somebody how they can learn how they can develop skills how they can be prepared for employment so that’s always important to think about. Sometimes the physical challenges are the easiest to solve and those social deficits particularly say if somebody’s on the autism spectrum that that can be a more involved conversation. So next slide?

But it’s important that we always remember that there are successful people with disabilities and that some of the most successful people can be and are people with disabilities. We always like to showcase brand names, big names of folks who have had some substantive impact and they have a disability and its part of who they are and what they do so think about Whoopi Goldberg, Harriet Tubman, Selena Gomez, any number of people, there are amazing celebrities out there who have disabilities and those images are important because they shape how we think. And that’s why we do a lot of work in Hollywood as well so next slide.

I wont bore you with all the statistics as I said were looking at about 46,000 people with disabilities thats across the entire lifespan of folks with disabilities living specifically in Long Beach. And according to the most recent statistics only about 9,000 folks have jobs. I know that all of you are on the frontlines trying to change that - push that number up. And together, I think that we can. And we can do that by building these kind of new personal connections \_\_\_ referrals from one group to another \_\_\_ you all know this but people with disabilities face endemic issues related to poverty and that’s always important to think about, that people with disabilities can be often the poorest of the poor, particularly when it comes to areas that have economic challenges like Long Beach, or the greater Los Angeles area and those differences can be really an important thing to talk about.

But we have a school district proudly represented. [applause] Shout out to what you’re doing. I knew that Long Beach Unified School District was big but I didn’t realize that you’re actually the fourth largest district in California. So that is a huge pool of students with disabilities to support into success, to feed into internships to feed into LBCC but its really interesting, I earlier this week had the chance to go to the ACT Program and do some photography with our photographer and it was really great seeing these kids who have some serious challenges but they are incredibly diverse, they are incredibly energetic and I know that together we can help them succeed. We’re looking in total as I said about 9,000 students with disabilities K-12 - that’s a big number, and every year it’s a pipeline of students who are leaving the school system and they are either graduating, maybe dropping out, maybe facing suspension, and those are all intervention points where \_ things we can support folks and get them to succeed. And its really interesting when you look at long beach where as a microcosm of the nation its got great high school graduation rate for all students at 84%. The challenge though is that students with disabilities are at 62% and that’s just below the national average. To put things in perspective, you’re doing a lot better than places like Nevada, Mississippi, Alabama, places where the high school graduation rate is closer to 50%. Georgia is in the 40s. So you guys are doing a lot of great work but there are ways we can work together to boost that number up.

So next slide. It’s important again, when you’re looking at all these different statistics it’s important to think about that spectrum of disability, the different issues that are going to come up, and I know that \_\_\_\_ a little small but you’re all going to get a copy of this in your email box tomorrow, and so we’ve got a total of 9000 number, the biggest percentage by far are learning disabilities - no surprise, those are the invisible differences that you have in students, the way they learn the way they relate the way they process information and just keep in mind statistically when you look nationally, one of the biggest reasons why folks drop out of high school is because of untreated disability issues. They don't get diagnosed being dyslexic, they don’t get diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_ dysgraphia? Those issues can kind of compound into social behaviors that impact their ability to graduate and whether or not they get suspended or start being absent in school. And then looking across the other spectrum you’ve got 2000 that have a speech or language impairment of some kind. You’ve got 1500 students who have deaf/blindness. The autism statistic is a little wonky because of the way the data works but I am sure there are more than zero total with disabilities on the autism spectrum.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: No, it’s 1526.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Oh, ok, there we go, sorry. So we’re looking at 1500 kids with autism and that number is moving through that pipeline, and whether its the school to prison pipeline or the school to success pipeline. We have the power together to change that outcome to really impact peoples lives. So next slide.

One of the issues that looking from the 50000 foot perspective it’s important to think about the way that absence in school kind of impacts the learning process and it changes the way-how far the barriers people are starting to fall behind because if you’re falling in your schoolwork its going to impact your ability to have job skills, its going to impact your ability to graduate, and so you got chronic absenteeism that’s impacting about 24% of high school students with disabilities in Long Beach and when you look at kids who are K-8 about 15% are chronically absent and so particularly for the folks in the school district there are compelling reasons why students may be missing class. It could be indicative of classroom environment, it could be indicative of bullying, and so those are all issues that we need to keep in mind even though were focused on employment these issues factor into that and kind of help shape the life story of the youth that we’re going to be supporting. So, next slide.

I’m going to skip through some of these, Los Angeles county just a point of comparison of where you are in the greater regional area, next slide. There we go, suspension rates. We’re looking at about 8% of students with disabilities in high school being suspended, so that’s a total of 243 kids. You know, if you get suspended in High School, that can really start being a greater and greater risk of falling into the school to prison pipeline and that’s an intervention point. Nationally-I’m going to throw some jargon at you so I apologize-how many of you have heard about ESSA? Any takers? One person. What is ESSA? [Crosstalk]

Vivain Hsa: It essentially replaced or overtook No Child Left Behind, it is the federal law that governs student accountability for public schools in all the states.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Wonderful, correct. Correct answer! [Laughter]

ESSA’s a big change but the ripples its making nationally are rippling down to the state level. When they ripple back to the state level its going to ripple back to local school districts. One of the interesting changes with ESSA for example is that there’s a new requirement that all justice involved youth-youth who are in the juvenile justice system-have to be assessed for disability, and that’s a big change so youth get suspended, they get arrested, legally they are now going to be given the opportunity to be assessed for disability issues and that’s going to create a chance that if they haven’t already been diagnosed with an issue they may catch something and there’s supposed to be paired with supports they’re supposed to give them an IEP when they’re still awaiting whatever sentence they’ve been given. So that’s a very important thing to think about this is an issue that nobody’s dealt with before, and yes there’s always been special ed in juvenile justice but this is kind of a new realm of expanding that hole of people who are going to need help. So, next slide.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: There are job pieces to all of them so now I actually want to stop talking and starting talking amongst ourselves so first up is the agenda calls for facilitated dialogue… food should be arriving soon but let’s get started talking about \_\_\_\_\_.

So RespectAbility, we are a national non-partisan non-profit organization that is focused on fighting stigmas and advancing opportunities for people with disabilities. So what is a national organization doing in Long Beach? Well, to be honest part of the reason why we took this new \_\_\_\_\_ working with people in the communities was because we kind of tore apart our agendas after the 2016 election year. We said alright we’re not going to do Washington, what can we do instead? So we thought about all the work we’ve done over the years around the workforce system supporting workforce \_\_\_\_\_ to better understand how to serve people with disabilities, better understanding how systems work, more importantly, how systems work in local areas. The biggest challenges we’ve often found is that there are \_\_\_\_\_, there are barriers that people doing good work in a community don’t hate each other. So we came up with this idea that through collaboration, cooperation, we can facilitate connections that may not be have been made before. Getting people to talk to each other, structure in a way so that looking at different communities and Long Beach was the first community that came through. We got a small grant from Long Beach Community Foundation because we reached and said “hey you’ve got a great school district, you’ve got a great workplace program, you’ve got all these different agencies doing work in the community. But they may not know each other and how can we better support them through learning and collaboration. So that’s why we’re here! We’re not here to replace anybody, we’re not trying to put you out of business or anything like that, we’re here to help you and to support you and enable all of you to achieve what you want to achieve. So that’s the short preface to that, so questions, comments, smart remarks

Jennifer Lazslo Mizrahi: Let me also just add that most of the work nationally around disability has been towards children of white two-parent families for whom their language is English. And we intentionally picked Long Beach because we intentionally wanted to focus on the English second-language learners with a disability who has a new set of challenges that has been unaddressed in other places. Because you have a Hispanic mayor that will understand there are unique challenges that can be addressed and because we believe that immigrants are the innovators and hard-workers of the future, that if our country essentially writes off children of color and English second-language learners with disabilities who in many cases are the most talented people in a room, our nation is really going to be harmed. So we see in Long Beach the potential for a national example of things that can be replicated for other places because people if you look at the national disability organization structure, by in large you have two-parent families that are white and has a kid with a disability and so they started an organization about the one particular disability that the kid has as opposed to as across all disabilities and all backgrounds. So we’re trying to sort of bridge that gap.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: So one of the things in kind of looking at all of the research is the expectations, the expectations of the parent will ultimate success of children. Obviously parents love their kids, but sometimes the messages the parents are seeing about the ultimate success or independence of their kids, they might say “oh well just put them on benefits”, or get them supports. That’s all important, but the important message is that when a child gets diagnosed with a disability at an early age, when they are born but may not be born with a disability, one of the first messages they need to receive is that they will be a way for that child to succeed. That ultimately there will be paths that they get to go to college, have a job, and be independent. So I’m curious and kind of want to open up that at the beginning of the early timeline I know all of you are doing work with youth but what kind of messages what kind of ideas, but what kind of messages what kind of ideas can we come up with to support parents and communicate to their bet okay your kids five years old now but in 13 years they’re going to be ready to go the workforce and how can we get those messages about all the right resources you guys offer, all the great supports the organizations offer, how can we make sure that parents in the back of their mind are thinking 10 years ahead.

Angela: Well one thing I’ve learned from parents is our services in California is kind of in chunks, and a lot of families like or would like support overtime try-out doing chores at home, or try-out getting that summer job taking the neighbor’s trash and that sort of thing. And I feel like they are not now, \_\_\_\_\_ differently because they won’t think that would happen so I am working on a project in Orange County on something similar so we’re looking at in order to do that come in with resource and help families try those things out with a helper who’s probably a peer mentor. But I think that’s key and the key to that also is the public benefits piece.

Gabriel: I think you should start off as a meet a parent and you have a child with a disability and you are born and you’re actually a social worker right away and I know a lot of social workers are not even… they’re so used to getting in the old fact of the coping of the situation and \_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning actually having samples from people who have success stories. I just had a child with a rare genetic condition and luckily I’ve been in this field for a long time where some of the stuff I was able to share with the social worker actually started educating her about what I’ve experienced. I can tell they weren’t as informed as they probably needed to be and luckily I am where I’m at but other parents who are faced with this situation from the get-go are not really aware of what you said: will be able to succeed or will be able to be independent. And I think it should start there because there’s already a lot of time there where you’re trying to kind of picture more or less where your child will be at in the next 5 years

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Thank you for that…

Scott: I’ll just add on to his statement, my neighbor just had a down syndrome daughter and they didn’t even know regional centers existed. They didn’t the scheme for their \_\_\_\_\_ of what’s next for them they didn’t have a category or no organizations to refer to and my wife and I who love disabilities \_\_\_\_\_ were super excited they had a neighbor with a down syndrome baby so we were over there all the time sharing ideas with them, researches in the community to help them but somehow we thought the education from the hospital site from the very start the doctors need to provide families upon birth even like hey here is where you are at now and here is the road map. There is a life for your child that this job can live with \_\_\_\_\_ and provide them with that road map since day one.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Absolutely

Sharon: \_\_\_\_\_ so we have special ed \_\_\_\_\_ district advisory community council, so I just want to bring speakers from diverse educational information. They need to start training their parents and let them know what kind of services are available \_\_\_\_\_ well for us it starts at the district level and then it goes on to the school. So I think that \_\_\_\_\_

Chris: I always thought of it programs for parents, we help transition as they grow older, transition, but I don’t think there’s much focus on the parents also transitioning while their child \_\_\_\_\_ letting them go but still being present, I think the parents have difficulty doing that. And I’ve always thought there should be classes or programs set up for beyond specific \_\_\_\_\_, just the parents, too. To maybe get a better perspective.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: I’m glad we are all seeing this event. There are two things that jumped out at me \_\_\_\_\_ I think as you say that connection of parent to parent, those pure connections, let’s be honest. In a school district, can you give people a lot of preparation but it’s making it easier to relate to another parent who’s going through the process. So I’m curious how can we better support parent to parent connections, how can we support those kinds of conversations? What tools can we come up with?

Chris: Going along with what he had said earlier about what don’t even know about \_\_\_\_\_ center, coincidentally, \_\_\_\_\_ forward and I was talking to someone in their human resources about SPS and she started talking to me about her brother and wow he could really benefit from a program, how can he get in? So I had to tell her about Harbor Regional Center and she never even have heard of the center

Blake: Well I think to the question of like how… you could pull up the calendar right now to every single class that Harbor Regional Center offers to parents, you could look at all the classes that each school district offers to inform parents, you could look at all the sessions the different vendors and providers offer seminars and things like that to do outreach. We can list all those different events; we can try to come up with different tools. So I think that those things are happening, and I think that would be my constructive like hey let’s look at we are arguing things but still we can look at the system as a whole. There’s breakdowns no matter how many tools we are providing; the entry point idea that Scott had been talking about if you look at corporations they are really good, the for-profit sector is really good making sure that they’re going to be making their money. So they’re going to make sure that when someone comes in for treatment that might lead to respite care, they’re going to make sure that doctor has resources available to be able to direct that family to resources where that can family can receive services. How are we doing that at those specific entry points

Julia: I think to add to that I think that it’s that warm handoff that’s not happening because they are afraid…

That warm handoff to the next step, I think is what’s missing. And then you have things that are - supportive services that are not there for example transportation a lot of the single parents are on the bus and they might have 3,4,5,6,7 kids, we multiply around here, so how do you get childcare? From trying to take care of one child to their needs, but who is going to take care of my other four kids? So it’s that warm handoff, and how we have those supportive services to make them happen?

Attendee: Can I speak to that point real quick? If we look at other, you know, world relief is an agency that helps resettle refugees, so if you want to talk about someone coming from a paradigm where they have no clue what they’re stepping into and they need to be informed, so that the way that their organization is structured is that refugee family is assigned to their program as soon as they’re identified, then the world relief organization sets up an in home meeting where they go in and they have a person that goes in and does a session where they explain the different spectrum of how to get your social security card, how to try to apply for services, what different programming they are provided necessary to your situation, how to get a job, practical things, so that would be the warm handoff introductions really integrating with the family as Jennifer said, families in Long Beach have maybe specific challenges other families don’t have - transportation - one thing everyone has in common is everyone has a home and that’s a comfortable place to have honest conversations.

Phillip: That’s really great. So Vivienne and then Gabriel.

Vivienne: One of the things that comes to mind for me in hearing everyone’s comments is a sense that people just don’t even know whats out there. I think part of the problem is you can’t see it, you can’t beat it, you don’t know that your kid can beat it. If you talk to a lot of parents, families, siblings, whatever, there is a child with a disability, many of them will have no idea that they can’t even picture how that child can grow up to be a game-fully employed adult or go onto college or do any of that, because they never see it in their home communities. They’ve never seen it. They might see people in \_\_\_ program, they might see people in the workshop, there are no role models that are in everyday life. What I would love to be able to do is to facilitate those types of opportunities for more families to be able to see our success stories. In the same way that you might have young girls who’ve never seen that many female scientists that have opportunities to have that, not see that in a panel or event but maybe have some interaction, have some mentorship. If you have a first generation latino family who maybe they live in a rural town they never - they don’t know anyone in their immediate community who has gone off to college and then become a lawyer or doctor, whatever. Their lives can be changed once they have established that relationship with someone who has traveled that path. And they see it as more real, much more real than if I or someone outside comes in and says “hey, I have a story for you” \_\_\_ programs. It’s that connection that’s real, I just don't know how to make that happen on a broad scale, but that’s what I’d love to see.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: You could totally watch Born This Way. [laughter]

Gabriel: Again, I’m only speaking from experience that the condition my daughter has, only 1100 people in the world have it and what my wife and I were able to do - we were able to connect on social media with people on facebook who were already 20-30 years old and living with the condition who we were actually able to connect with directly and sometimes when you have questions of where to go who to talk to, you can talk to them directly as to what they did and how they made it happen where then you can make a better informed decision and move forward and start to build your own experience.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Social media, been told to support those peer-to-peer connections and parent-to-parent connections, so Sharon and then Rick.

Sharon: It is really good that everyone is here \_\_\_ I just want to add to what you have to say. We can do a parent \_\_\_\_ with all different organizations that have \_\_\_\_ training for all parents, offered to everybody. What’s lacking, and I’ve worked with a lot of parents, as you said they don’t know where to go for resources and so if you work as a group and develop as one \_\_\_\_\_ institute where we have different workshops for them and working with the district \_\_\_\_\_ we bring the parents to \_\_\_\_\_ it was a whole day thing right at lunch and everybody’s \_\_\_\_\_ we have \_\_\_\_\_ parents can go and get some information, maybe in this future…

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: Rick, you’ve got a - harbor regional center’s got a…

Rick: We have a transition fair coming up in April. So we do that a couple of times a year. But also we also have a miniature program, a peer mentor program which is not enough, that’s something that could be expanded \_\_\_\_ could lead to some more peer mentors, so I feel like we’ve got a lot of nice pieces, we need to connect them and we need to expand them.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: So Rick, if I can ask you because we put together a resource guide that I’m hoping everybody here got the resource guide that RespectAbility put together, so you can pass that around, but who can come to the two fairs - could the other organizations have booths and put out information to encourage?

Rick: They’ve already been invited, so that’s are going, and \_\_\_\_ schools have fairs that we do, so I think maybe on social media - do we have a site that we can go to that lists our different activities so that people can get a hold of collaboration?

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: That’s actually something that RespectAbility has done, so as we - I talked to some people who when we were developing this what we did is we reached out to about 200 organizations, we asked for contact information, we asked for address, permission statement, so the resource guide is categorized according to youth programs, adult programs, all those sorts of things. It’s free on our website and I’d certainly encourage you to pass it to your folks to put it on your own websites that would be a really wonderful thing to share. We did a hard copy version to start with, it’s online, it’s free, but something we’ve done since then is we put it on a website called Jason’s Connection. Have any of you heard about Jason’s connection? A lot of head-shakes. Jennifer, what is Jason’s connection?

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: So Jason is a young man with autism whose family has created a free online portal for resources and so now that they’re developing with an excel sheet that any organization can upload all of their information onto this centralized resource and they have social workers and they have special needs attorneys that are free so that you can go in and put in that you’re in Long Beach and what it is that you’re looking for in terms of a service. It’s [jasonsconnection.org](http://jasonsconnection.org) and they have a lot of the different nonprofits and service providers but if there’s something missing they’re very happy to add that on but you can custom search and if you don't find what you’re looking for you literally email them and they will have the social worker or the lawyer help somebody for free as a resource provider for parents who are looking to navigate for supports.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: That’s great, the only problem I run into is the fact that sometimes there’s institutional divide-you can put something on a website but if someone doesn’t have internet access that creates another barrier, so that’s just something to keep in mind.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: Yeah, 17% of the families in Long Beach are not on the internet.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: So, we need to get stuff online, and we can make sure it’s free, but we need to get a hard copy too.

Last question before we pivot to lunch.

Vivian Hsa: The one difficulty with- having all these resources available and resource guides is fantastic, but oftentimes with families they need a navigator to wade through a list of resources. They can go through the entire list and not fully comprehend what this 3 sentence description of the organization was because they have no idea, and so its very difficult for them just on their own or even talking with another parent to truly make the best use - optimal use, so we have to pair that resource with someone who might be counseling advising to help you.…

Debbie: We have time because we’re setting up lunch out there so we have like another 5-10 minutes so this would be a great opportunity to pick up on your, if you can’t see it, you can’t be it, and maybe Jennifer, Phillip you may want to talk about it on a big scale picture what RespectAbility is doing in Hollywood for that because it doesn’t get down to the one on one but it addresses the big changes we’re trying to make.

Phillip Kahn-Pauli: So, the other part of my shop is that RespectAbility’s organizational mission is to fight stigmas and advance opportunities. I’m the advancing opportunities piece, you’re all part of that mission, why you’re working with us. The other piece is fighting stigmas and actually earlier this week we got to unveil our new Hollywood inclusion toolkit because we’re trying to promote authentic, true stories of people with disabilities, get people behind the camera and in front of the camera. So there are details about different types of disabilities, details about terminology and so we can speak to the pop culture piece of “if you can see it, you can be it” so as an organization we do the Hollywood stuff and we also see that as changing minds being part of shaping employer attitudes and getting people hired.

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi: So if I could add on to that, Sandra who’s here, her son is on Born This Way and you’ve probably seen Sean on the show and Christina who’s on the show, her dad is the president of the Harbor Center, so it’s like a local show that has a million fans and it’s modeling best practices around high expectations for youth with developmental disabilities who want employment and to the extent possible independent living and to have a real life, like getting married which Christina is engaged and that’s a big storyline on the show, so the show has a million fans, it’s had 22 episodes on the air so far, many of them are shot here in Long Beach which is very exciting and additionally it’s now gone global so it’s being watched in Japan, and in Spain and in Latin America trying to show that people with developmental disabilities can have \_\_\_\_\_\_

This year, because of the workforce innovation opportunity act, because of other things around stigma reduction, not just that show but many other shows including people with disabilities in a positive way, not a pity frame but an empowerment frame, but the combination of amazing work that people like you are doing on the frontlines and employers taking advantage of the talents that people with disabilities this year there were 4 times as many new jobs for people with disabilities as the year before. So the previous year there were nationally 87,000 new jobs that people with disabilities got. 87,000. But this year, there was 343,000 new jobs which is a four fold increase. Now if we want to see continued massive increases, one of the best things that you can do in terms of the jobs that you get for your clients is if you can get them jobs in Hollywood, and I don't just mean being in front of the camera on Born This Way, I mean if you can get them in catering or in environmental or in filing or in something because the people who work in storytelling do not - we’ve done focus groups with them - they do not have people with disabilities in their world. They don’t know them, they don’t see them as capable, they don’t put them in the storylines so you may have seen-who saw the movie La La Land? Did anyone see La La Land? There are like 300 people in the opening scene, there’s this big dance number on the LA freeway, not a single person with a disability and when we talk to some of the filmmakers, they say it just didn’t occur to us because there’s no people with disability in their world, so if you have the opportunity to develop a program - an apprenticeship program, an internship program at one of the studios, that would really help because then storytellers would start to know that people with disabilities can be very capable and start to put them into their stories which causes a ripple effect which will help all the other industries and all the other jobs.