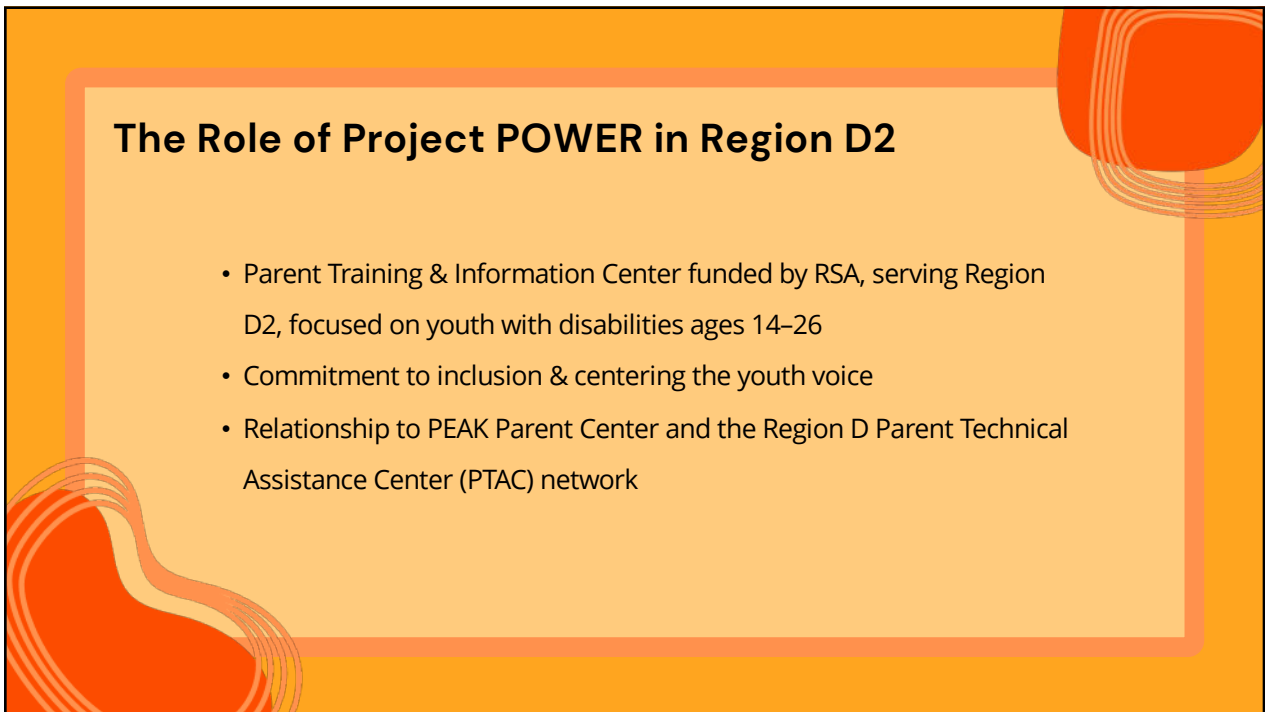


Empowering Region D: TA Tools for Practical Youth Inclusion

Melissa Edwards & Quinna Phillips, Project POWER
Christopher Tiffany, Encircle Families

1



The Role of Project POWER in Region D2

- Parent Training & Information Center funded by RSA, serving Region D2, focused on youth with disabilities ages 14-26
- Commitment to inclusion & centering the youth voice
- Relationship to PEAK Parent Center and the Region D Parent Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) network

2

Youth Advisory Community: Infographics, Podcasts, Videos, & More

- Mission Statement: The Youth Advisory Community provides resources, real life applications and practical tools to individuals, their families, and professionals from a youth perspective about disabilities. We empower youth and young adults with disabilities through paid opportunities to have their voice heard.

3

Other Resources

- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) Resources
- Accessibility Guidelines & Checklist
- Resource of the Month
- Conference & Webinar Recordings
- Region D2 Resource Collection
- Discord

4

Practical Youth Engagement TA

In Collaboration with Diversability Incorporated and Encircle Families

- Refugee Fact Sheet & webpage
- VR & CIL videos
- Youth Engagement Toolkit
- YET Fact Sheets
- Essential Forms Kit

5

The Serving Youth White Paper

- Purpose
 - To guide PTIs and CPRCs in expanding direct services to youth & young adults with disabilities to better support those we serve, and empowering disabled youth through informed, respectful, and responsive direct services
 - Legal, ethical, and practical considerations - comply with IDEA, Section 504, ADA, state-specific laws, consent, confidentiality, and guardianship

6

Providing Direct Services

for youth and young adults with disabilities

Direct services prepare youth and young adults with disabilities for independence and ensure they have a voice in decisions that shape their future. Here's some things to consider when providing direct services:

01 Legal Considerations

Federal Laws

- IDEA
- Section 504
- ADA

Serving Minor Children

- Consent and Confidentiality
- Mandatory Reporting
- Abuse and Neglect Protocols

State Laws

These laws vary from state to state, affecting everything from eligibility to services that can be provided.

Serving Young Adults with Guardianship

- Understanding Guardianship
- Rights of Young Adults
- Legal Guardian's Role

03 Practical Considerations

Tailoring Services

- Use specialized programs
- Be culturally aware

Building Capacity

- Train staff thoroughly
- Leverage community resources

Collaboration

- Establish communication channels
- Manage conflict well

Evaluation and Improvement

- Establish measurable criteria
- Incorporate feedback systems

Best Practices in Service Delivery

01

Individualized Approaches

Empower individuals by prioritizing their goals, strengths, and active participation in decision-making

02

Collaboration & Partnership

Form strategic partnerships that leverage strengths of each organization and provide a continuum of services

03

Cultural Competence

Provide services in multiple languages and offer culturally responsive programming

04

Evaluation & Improvement

Collect data on service outcomes and solicit feedback from participants

05

Empowerment & Advocacy

Offer resources that build self-advocacy and encourage individuals to take an active role in their own lives

Scan below to learn more:

7

Wrap up, Survey, & Questions

8

