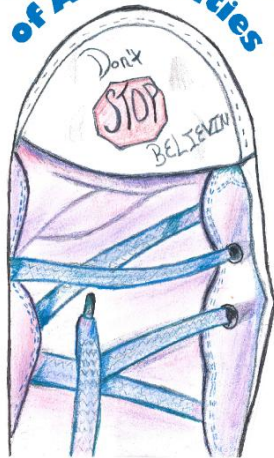


**Possibilities
of All Abilities**



**2013 IDAHO
SELF-ADVOCACY
CONFERENCE**

Artwork by Michelle Moore

2013 Final Report

Conference Sponsors:

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network

The State Independent Living Council

Treasure Valley Autism Society

HIS Way, Inc.

The Center on Disabilities & Human Development

Community Partnerships of Idaho

Consumer Direct

Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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Moscow SALN Chapter

Boise SALN Chapter

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Supported Living Association

C.K. Quade Law, PLLC

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Schultz Family



700 W. State St.
JRW Building
First Floor West
Boise, ID 83702-5868
Phone: 208-334-2178
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Fax: 208-334-3417

C. L. "Butch" Otter
Governor

Denise Wetzel
Chair

Marilyn B. Sword
Executive Director

July 25, 2013

Council Members:

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is pleased to provide the final report of the *2013 Possibilities of All Abilities* Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference. While providing leadership experiences was the ultimate goal of the 2013 conference, it also important to recognize the many unanticipated outcomes that took place as a result of the work of the conference. Leadership opportunities for people with disabilities were weaved throughout every step of planning and implementing the conference. This report attempts to capture some of the highlights of those unanticipated outcomes as well as the leadership opportunities fulfilled by new and seasoned leaders in Idaho.

The Council would like to thank all of the sponsors for their financial support, as well as the spirit of generosity in which each sponsor stepped up to help. Support for the conference not only came in financial support, but also in a complete willingness to help in additional ways to make sure opportunities were made available for anyone individual who wanted to attend. 165 people came together from every corner of the state to celebrate, learn, and be a part of something bigger than their individual selves.

This report provides information about the planning, implementation, rationale for choices, budget information, and recommendations for future conferences.

Respectfully,

Christine Pisani
Program Specialist
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Planning & Planning Committee Members

Planning for the conference began May 3, 2012 and planning meetings took place monthly. Committee members provided vital leadership and vision to the conference. The approach used to make decisions for determining conference details was largely decided through agreement by all committee members.

Planning committee members determined every detail of the conference through the work of sub-committees, full-committee discussions, work through local SALN chapters, and individual work on specific tasks. At the final planning committee meeting to evaluate the conference, committee members were asked to complete an evaluation of their planning committee experience as it related to the Council as the coordinating agency. Results of the survey completed by planning committee members may be found on pages 23 and 24.

Conference Planning Committee:

Sandra Abend, SALN Member, Idaho Falls

Rocio Ayala, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Meridian

Trina Balanoff, Center on Disabilities & Human Development, Boise

Shiloh Blackburn, SALN State President, Pocatello

Nathan Brasley, President, Boise SALN Chapter, Kuna

Elva Escobedo, Disability Action Center Northwest, Moscow

Jim Hansen, SALN State Coordinator, Boise

Amanda Holloway, Council Staff, Boise

Scott Hoover, Disability Rights Idaho, Inc., Boise

John Kihara, SALN Member, Pocatello

Olivia Lebens, Center on Disabilities & Human Development UI, Moscow

Mel Leviton, Disability Rights Idaho, Inc., Moscow



Sandra Pfeifer, President, Nampa SALN Chapter, Nampa

Christine Pisani, Council Staff, Boise

Lisa Propst, SALN Member, Nampa

John Russell, SALN Member, Moscow

Toby Schultz, SALN Member, Moscow

Larkin Seiler, SALN Member, Moscow

James Steed, SALN Member, Pocatello

Kevin Swearingen, SALN Member, Idaho Falls

The conference site, The Boise Center on the Grove, was selected before the planning committee started meeting, to secure available dates for the event. The Boise Center on the Grove was selected for the 2013 conference based on evaluation results from the 2010 statewide self-advocacy conference. Evaluation results from the 2010 conference indicated the need for improved accessibility, larger conference spaces, and a need for an increased number of available accessible rooms with the growing number of people wanting to attend. The Center on the Grove staff was friendly and accommodating. The accessible space provided plenty of room to have a large number of people moving throughout the conference. Comments from conference attendees on evaluations indicated that there was not enough food served and it was not very tasty, with the exception of the final breakfast served on Thursday.



ART CONTEST

Be the one to design the logo for Idaho's next Statewide Self-Advocacy conference in May of 2013!!!

Who: Idahoans with disabilities ages 16 years and older

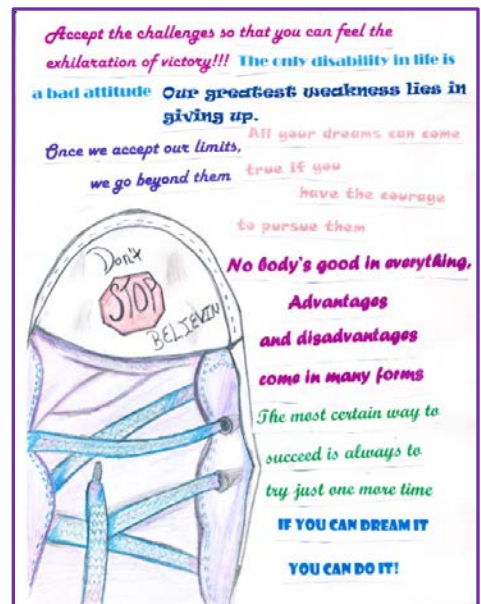
What: *"The Possibilities of All Abilities,"* is our conference theme and we are looking for artwork for our logo! The winner will receive \$50 in cash, a free conference t-shirt, and have their conference registration fee paid for.

How: Artwork must fit an 8 x10 flat space and must be able to be scanned for use on t-shirts, flyers, web-sites, posters, etc. Name of the artist will be included on all artwork used for the conference.

When: Please mail or e-mail a jpg file of your artwork by September 28, 2012.
 Mail to:
 Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
 700 W. State Street, 1st Floor
 Boise, Idaho 83702
 E-mail: info@icdd.idaho.gov

The planning committee conducted a statewide art contest with the selected piece to be used as the logo for all conference materials. Contestants were asked to provide art that fit the theme of the conference, *"Possibilities of All Abilities,"* which had been agreed upon earlier in conference planning discussions. The flyer was sent statewide for advertising the contest was designed by Shiloh Blackburn, Council and conference planning committee member. 17 individuals submitted artwork for the contest.

Michelle Moore of Genesee High School was the artist selected to have her artwork represent the logo for the conference. Ms. Moore, along with her teacher, Darliss Bardwell, also attended the conference.



Keynote Presenters:



Joelle

Keynote presenters were selected for the conference based on their demonstrated leadership skills, accomplishments, and ability to motivate individuals to take action in their personal lives as well as working together for larger social change. **Joelle Brouner** was selected by the committee at the recommendation of planning committee member, Ms. Mel Leviton. Joelle Brouner serves as the Executive Director of the Washing State Rehabilitation Council.



Pascal and Larry

Larry Bissonnette, Pascal Cheng, Tracy Thresher, and Harvey Lavoy were recommended to provide a keynote presentation based on individual committee member enthusiasm for the four gentlemen after watching their movie, *Wretches and Jabberers*. Both gentlemen type to communicate and present a powerful message, **“Not being able to speak is not the same as not having anything to say.”**



Harvey and Tracy

Comments about Keynote Presentations:

“The keynote speakers were wonderful.”

“Joelle Bruner gave an exceptional speech.”

“Joelle was very inspiring.”

“The *Wretches and Jabberers* movie really opened my eyes to autism.”

“The presenters Tracy and Larry – awesome!!”

“I got to see Larry and Tracy’s movie and their incredible journey into communication.”

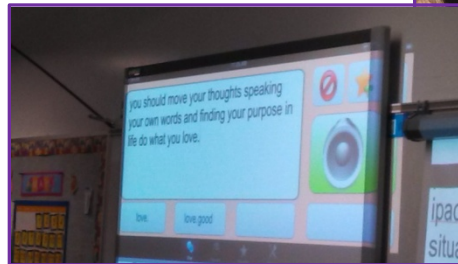
“I really enjoyed the keynote speakers they were awesome. I learned a lot from Larry and Tracy.”

“I think the best thing was the *Wretches and Jabberers*. They were awesome and it was an awesome conference.”

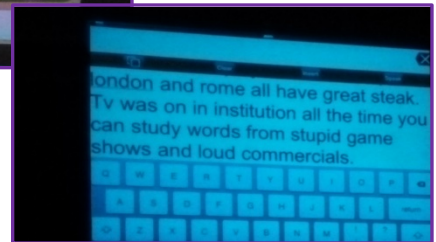
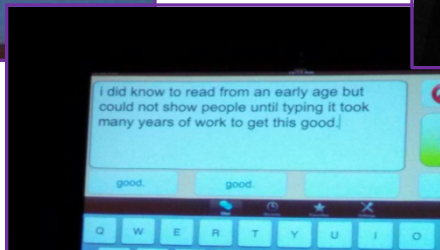
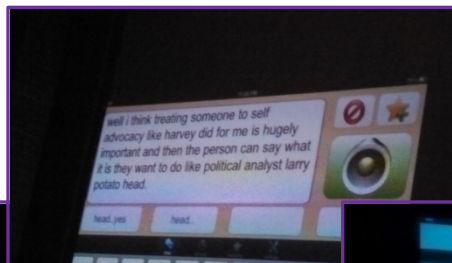
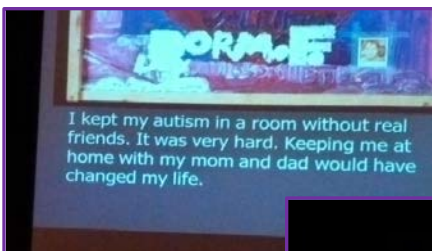


While in Idaho, Larry, Pascal, Tracy, and Pascal provided some education outside of the conference. They visited Black Canyon High School in Emmett and talked to the students of teacher Annette Lutes. As a result of fundraising by Ms. Lutes, all in the class had tablets and used these to ask questions of Tracy and Larry. The remarkable result was captured on film by

Idaho Public Television and will be used by Idaho Public Television to develop a feature on the program, *Dialogue*. Many thanks to Paul Tierney for being tour guide and driver for the gentlemen from Vermont!



Additionally, the Treasure Valley Autism Society, under the leadership of Paul and Richelle Tierney, arranged for a free viewing of the film on Tuesday evening at Boise State University. Parents, individuals, and service providers attended and were able to ask questions of Larry and Tracy that moved audiences with their responses. Many thanks to Treasure Valley Autism Society and to the Public Policy Department at Boise State University for co-sponsorship of such a wonderful evening.



Conference Presentations

30 presentations were provided with 26 presenters at the conference. As required by the conference planning committee, all presentations were to be done by people with disabilities. Some presentations were co-presented by a person without a disability. 5 of the workshops were presented twice during the conference because of high interest in those topics. Presentations repeated at the conference include:

- Dating, Relationships, and Sex
- How to Speak Up for Yourself
- Working and Social Security Benefits: Can I Do Both?
- How to Save Money to Get or Do the Things You Want
- Yoga for All



Manny Guerra

Conference Breakout Sessions



Self-Advocacy & Public Speaking

Presenters: Tom Ball & Pat McCallister

Self-advocate Tom Ball and comedian Pat McCallister will teach participants self-advocacy and public speaking tips. This should be a fun and informative session with lots of laughter.

Finding Your Voice to Inclusion

Presenter: Denise Myler

One of the first parts of advocacy is to find your voice. Then use that voice to speak out in support of something. People need ideas and safe opportunities to create strong self-determination and advocacy skills. Denise will share how self-determination and self-advocacy lead to inclusion and give a person social capital. She will talk about the skills people need to feel ready to challenge themselves and get involved with issues they care about.



Working and Social Security Benefits: Can I do Both?

Presenters: Scott Hoover & John Kihara

Social Security disability benefits are confusing and hard to understand once someone returns to work or works for the first time. This session will outline how a person who is on social security can explore working without jeopardizing their benefits. It is a **MUST ATTEND** if you are receiving benefits and want to work!

What is SALN and Why Is It Important?

Presenters: Shiloh Blackburn & Jen Magelky-Seiler

Learn what self-advocacy means, who is part of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network (SALN), what chapters are, where there are chapters in Idaho and what happens at chapter meetings.



How to Speak Up for Yourself

Presenter: Josh Renn

You have the ability to do great things in life, choose the future you desire, and develop a clear purpose and vision regardless of your disability or circumstances. Josh will share with you how to effectively stand up for yourself as a person with a disability in a culture that many times does not recognize the need for accommodations. He will talk about how you can gain some tools to be successful.

Tool Box for Success

Presenter: Mel Leviton

You will learn how to use your abilities and strengths to build self-esteem, be more independent, and part of the community. Mel will share resources to become involved in your community, including getting more education or better jobs. You will brainstorm ideas for building your possibilities and learn ways to say “I CAN” when people say “You CAN’T.”





Disability Friendly Recreation in Idaho

Presenters: Brenda Kotewa, Emily Kovarik, Dan Dyer

There are many opportunities for recreation around Idaho that are disability friendly. Come learn about a variety of programs and opportunities around the state and see a demonstration of some of the adaptive equipment used by people with disabilities to participate in these exciting opportunities. Emily and Brenda will also talk about a variety of ways to adapt leisure and recreation opportunities to meet the needs of the individual.

Have Tablet-Get Job and Other Tablet Apps

Presenters: Toby Schultz & Dan Dyer

Have you ever explored employment potential with an iPad? Would you like the opportunity to learn about the iPad and the possibilities it has to offer? Toby Schultz and Dan Dyer are your guys! They will present on the useful apps for employment and for life available on the iPad. The presenters will bring several extra iPads to share in order for participants to have hands on experiences.



Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities

Presenter: Monique Johns

The Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities program is health insurance for people who work and who have a disability. This training will tell you more about the program, eligibility requirements, application, and appeals.



If I Don't Change it Who Will? Let Your Voice Be Heard

Presenters: Shiloh Blackburn & Joe Raiden

Learn how to become involved in making a difference on the issues you care about. You will learn what the Idaho Legislature is, how it works, and how citizens can get involved. Shiloh and Joe will provide information to help you better understand how to get your message to legislators, find out who to contact, and how to get your message across.



How to Save Money to Get or Do the Things You Want

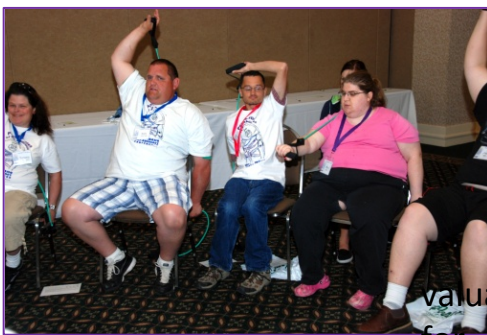
Presenter: Laurie Lowe

Laurie will show you how to live within the income you have and how to avoid getting into debt. She will show you how to set goals and come up with a plan to save for all the things you want, even with a limited income. She plans to use herself as an example. Example budgets will be part of the presentation and worksheets will be available for you to create your own budget.

Healthy Transitioning

Presenters: Cami Smith & Angela Lindig

The transition to adulthood may include changes to where you go to school, work, and live. Health care transition may include changing from pediatric care and children's services to adult care and services. Teens and young adults with special health care needs, and their families, need to know that health care transition takes a lot of thought and planning. This presentation includes first-hand experience, materials, and information to help you plan with a focus on your healthcare to transition from youth to adult.



Stretchin' Tonin' Breathin'

Presenters: Susan Warren and Manny Guerra

This session will provide 20 conference participants the opportunity to learn how to use stretch bands to improve strength and flexibility. The activities can be done seated or not, and participants will learn how

valuable exercising every day is for mental, emotional, and physical health. Thank you to Treasure Valley YMCA for their generous donation of the stretch bands that may be kept by session participants if you promise to use them when you get home.



Yoga for All

Presenter: Martha Hopper

Yoga is a great way to build strength and flexibility as well as find some quiet in your busy life. Attend this yoga session that may be done seated or on the floor and learn about the great benefits to your mind and body.



Dating, Relationships & Sexuality

Presenters: Kristin Beaver, Tom Ball, Karen Gillette, & Pat McAllister

The panel will discuss dating, healthy relationships, and sexuality. Participants will be given a card to write down questions to be answered by the panel. The speakers will discuss their relationships and tips for dating and maintaining a healthy relationship.

The Nuts and Bolts of Supported Living

Presenters: Kristyn Herbert, Larkin Seiler, Shiloh Blackburn & Nathan Brasley

The panel of speakers will talk about what real life is like living with support in the community. All panelists live on their own with support and have had some interesting life experiences to learn from. Come and hear about what has gone well and not so well, with the chance to ask questions.



From Advocacy to Coalition

Presenter: Denise Myler

Denise will help participants take a look at what advocacy is and the different types of organizations out there. She will talk about how organizations can join together with other advocacy groups to form a coalition, how coalitions sometimes are the best way to achieve actions on issues, and the issues that are best done in coalitions.

When My World is Falling Apart

Presenters: Matt Larson & Kelly Hardy

There are people with developmental disabilities who need help for depression, but do not get help because they are unable to communicate how they feel. It can be hard to recognize signs of depression, but Matt and Kelly will talk about this and the unique challenges and stresses which place people with developmental disabilities at increased risk for depression.



Determined to Vote

Presenters: Joe Raiden & Rick Huber

Voting = Voice! You will learn why your vote is so important and how voting changes an unheard voice into a powerful voice. Joe and Rick will also share information about how to register to vote and the voting process in Idaho.



Employment First (Part 1) – It's About People Working in the Community

Presenters: Noll Garcia, Becky Woodhead, & Tracy Warren

In Part 1 of this two part session you will learn about what Employment First means and what is happening in Idaho to improve the employment support service systems so more people with disabilities are able to plan for, and get, a job in

their community earning a fair wage. We will talk together to hear your opinion about what works and doesn't work and to your ideas about you need to be able to get and keep a job.



Think Positive

Presenter: Rick Huber

Rick will use personal experience and interaction with the audience to discuss issues faced by people with disabling conditions. He will focus on positive thinking and inner dialog as tools to help cope with some of these issues.

Strong and Supported Families

Presenters: Theresa Gardiner, Brenda Kotewa, & Rachel Raiden

The journey of parenthood is all about running into the unexpected. Join three mothers as they share stories about challenges they have faced and successes they have celebrated! With a few sad stories and plenty of funny ones, you will not be disappointed by this panel presentation!



Finding My Own Power (Part 1)

Presenter: Joelle Brouner

You will get the most out of this presentation if you plan to attend both Part 1 and Part 2 of this session. You will learn about finding your own personal power and how to prevent abuse in your life. Joelle brings a long history of working with people with disabilities teaching people how to prevent abuse in their personal lives. Adult protection will also be available for people who would like to talk to someone about how to get help healing from past abuse.



Painting for Fun is for Everyone (Part 1)

Presenter: Toby Schultz

Toby is an Idaho artist and is excited to share his hobby with others and will work with 20 people in this two-part session. Everything is provided, just show up and learn to paint on a canvas. Come create something amazing! All supplies are provided.



How to Appeal a Medicaid Decision

Presenters: Larkin Seiler & Nora Jehn

In this session you will learn about the Medicaid Appeal Process: what you should do before your annual meeting with the assessor, when you should appeal, how to write your appeal, and where to get help in writing your appeal. Larkin and Nora will also talk about what happens after you submit an appeal and what else you can do to advocate for yourself.

Employment First (Part 2) – Resources to Go to Work

Presenters: Noll Garcia, Becky Woodhead, Tracy Warren

In this session we will recap what Employment First means and do activities to help participants think about their own skills and abilities that could be used in a job.

Participants will also learn about new and existing resources and supports that can help in finding, getting, and keeping a job.

Grassroots Advocacy: Moving from Self-Advocate to Community

Presenter: Mel Leviton

This interactive workshop will focus on building coalitions that can provide real solutions through ACTION in communities across the state. You will learn about community organizing and the basics to creating real change. Presenters will identify a need or issue that affects people with disabilities in a community, tell how to find others to help identify solutions, and some simple steps toward making positive change. Come prepared to share an issue in YOUR community and learn how to take ACTION!





Music is the Best Medicine

Presenter: Nathan Brasley

We all know that music helps stimulate the mind in certain ways, depending on what we are listening to. Wouldn't it be nice to know what types of music can relax and make us more focused? Nathan will talk about certain types of music and the group will listen to some as well as have an open discussion about how music can empower you.

Finding My Own Power (Part 2)

Presenter: Joelle Brouner

You will get the most out of this presentation if you attended the Part 1 session. You will learn about finding your own personal power and how to prevent abuse in your life. Joelle brings a long history of working with people with disabilities teaching people how to prevent abuse in their personal lives. Adult protection will also be available for people who would like to talk to someone about how to get help healing from past abuse.



Yoga for All

Presenter: Bill Dial

Yoga is a great way to build strength and flexibility as well as find some quiet in your busy life. Attend this yoga session that can be done seated or on the floor and learn about the great benefits to your mind and body.



Painting for Fun is for Everyone (Part 2)

Presenter: Toby Schultz

This is second part of the painting session with Toby.



SALN Events

The Council would like to thank the members of the Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network. The contributions provided through the leadership and diverse skill sets of so many SALN members were seen in every aspect of the conference. SALN was involved in the planning, conducting of presentations, fundraising, and doing much of the behind the scenes work to make the conference what it was. Throughout the conference SALN provided a number of supports, and events unique to what SALN has to offer.

Ambassadors

The Idaho Self-Advocate Leadership Network provided “Ambassadors” to serve at the conference. SALN members volunteered from every part of the state where SALN has a presence. Ambassadors were particularly helpful in welcoming people who were new to the conference experience or new to self-advocacy as they helped people understand the role and function of the SALN. Ambassadors wore a green shirt instead of white to set them apart from the rest of the conference attendees. The SALN signed an additional 35 members from around the state to the organization.



SALN Recognizes Representative Grant Burgoyne, District 16-Boise



Boise Chapter member, Noll Garcia, presented Representative Grant Burgoyne with a recognition award from The SALN for his tireless work to pass landmark legislation requiring criminal history background checks for guardians and conservators of vulnerable adults. He is a true champion for people with disabilities in Idaho.

Recognizing Excellence

Shiloh Blackburn was recognized for her outstanding leadership as President of SALN for the past two years. As President, Shiloh managed the day-to-day operations of the state organization, all while it transitioned from a Council project to an independent non-profit organization. Under her leadership, SALN hired two paid staff, has an office in the Capitol city, and co-sponsored a second statewide self-advocacy organization. Thank you Shiloh for your stellar leadership as President and for your continued mentorship of new leaders!



SALN State Elections



The SALN held elections for State President, State Treasurer, and State Sergeant-At-Arms. Three outstanding gentlemen ran for the office of president offering their vision for the organization in their campaign speeches to the full conference. Tom Ball, Kevin Swearingen, and Dave Dekker ran for this office and have individually done a great deal of work for the whole of SALN. SALN members elected Dave Dekker of Jerome, to serve as President for the two-year term. Shiloh Blackburn ran uncontested for state Treasurer and Nathan Brasley ran uncontested for state Sergeant-at-Arms. Both will serve a two-year term in their positions.



John Kihara, Pocatello Chapter, served as the Election Official for the state SALN election. His oversight of the elections allowed for a fair and member-driven state election. Thank you for your service John.

SALN Raffle



SALN hosted a raffle at the conference which raised \$312. Mike Smith, SALN Chapter President in Moscow, coordinated the efforts to collect all of the donated items.



Local Chapter Efforts

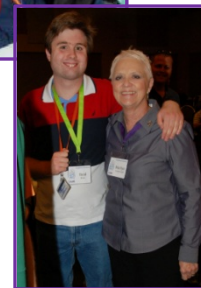
Individual chapters worked at a local level to raise money to send members to the conference. The Moscow chapter sold raffle tickets to raise \$616. The winner of the raffle won an IPAD. The Boise chapter hosted an evening with Pat McCallister, comedian & chef along with a silent auction that raised \$1500.

Conference Finale!

The conference ended with a surprise POWER SHOUT OUT by 30 powerful state leaders surrounding the conference attendees to shout out messages of support. Many thanks to the following people for participating in this unforgettable event:

- Denise Wetzel, DD Council Chair
- Shiloh Blackburn, President SALN
- Secretary of State Ben Ysursa
- Jim Baugh, DisAbility Rights Idaho, Inc.
- Kathie Garrett, Partners in Crisis
- Senator Lee Heider
- Katherine Hansen, Community Partnerships of Idaho
- Don Alveshire, Vocational Rehabilitation
- Senator Marv Hagedorn
- Dana Gover, Northwest ADA Center
- Chad Cardwell, Department of Health & Welfare
- Karen Gillette, STEP Transition Program, Boise School District
- Representative Sue Chew
- Steve Graci, Federation of Families
- Richelle Tierney, Treasure Valley Autism Society & CPI
- Monique Johns, SILC

- Reed Mulkey, Life Changing Agent (Retired)
- Representative Grant Burgoyne
- Mel Leviton, DisAbility Rights Idaho, Inc.
- Toni Belknap-Brinegar, Council Member
- Gordon Graff, Department of Labor
- Tammy Perkins of the Governor's office
- Roger Howard, LINC, Inc.
- TeRonda Robinson, Community Partnerships of Idaho
- Trina Balanoff, Center on Disability & Human Development
- Jim Hansen, Coordinator SALN



Recommendations for the Future



Conference Site: The Boise Center on the Grove provides the most accessible space. It also allows people to access up to 5 hotels that are within walking distance to the conference venue. There is currently no other hotel that provides the number of accessible sleeping rooms to accommodate the number of people needing them. Council staff recommends having conference non-state agency sponsors pay directly for meals to the Centre on the Grove to help improve the quality and quantity of food.

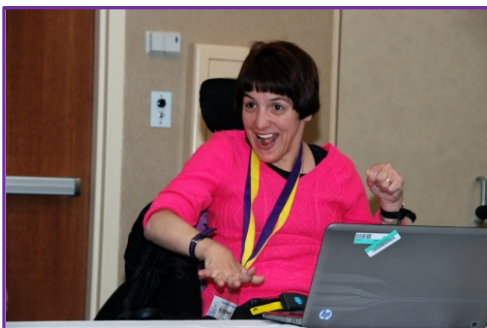
Transportation: In Idaho, accessible, affordable transportation to events is often the biggest barrier for people with disabilities to be able to attend. In an effort to overcome this barrier, the Council contracted with two chartered bus companies, Northwestern Stages for the northern route and Salt Lake Express for the southern route. The northern bus started in Coeur d'Alene and made stops in Moscow, Lewiston, and Grangeville to pick up conference attendees. The northern bus had 10 passengers total.



The southern bus started in Idaho Falls, and made stops in Pocatello, Burley, Twin Falls, and Mountain Home. The Southern bus also had 10 passengers total. Total cost for both buses came to: \$ 6,233.

Both chartered bus companies operate smaller daily shuttles from the areas where we provide transportation. It is recommended that the Council make arrangements for individuals using the smaller daily shuttles, due to the low ridership on the more expensive chartered buses. While this may require some additional overnight lodging and support costs, it would still be a cost savings by eliminating the costs for two chartered buses.

Conference Breakout Sessions: Presentations about dating, relationships, and sex are a must at each conference. Workshops should be offered to meet the needs of people in different stages of relationships: Those already in relationships, and people new to the idea. Certain sessions should be repeated multiple times.



It would also be helpful to have advanced and beginner sessions for different levels of understanding about self-advocacy. People either have a lot of self-advocacy experience or not much experience. It is recommended that the conference offer 4 different levels of learning about self-advocacy. A request should be made of all presenters to identify what level their presentation proposal is being submitted for.

I Need a Break Room: This room was made available at the request of planning committee members for people to have a quiet space with limited distractions or noise. The room was located at the end of the hallway directly down from the registration table. The room was introduced at the beginning of the conference, but not mentioned after that. It should have been mentioned throughout the conference to remind people about its' purpose and availability. Improved signage on the floor and walls would be helpful.



Registration: The flow of registration needs improvement. An increased number of people should be made available at the time of registration with registrants divided by alphabet to receive their conference packet, conference-shirt, and nametag. Due to a delay in receiving the conference t-shirts from the vendor, conference staff was unable to divide those materials up in time for the opening of the conference.



Breaks between Sessions: Time between the individual breakout sessions needs to be filled in or have shorter breaks. If breaks are kept longer a suggestion could be that SALN could provide information on specific topics that aren't covered in breakout sessions (registering people to vote, alternatives to guardianship, what is self-advocacy, what is SALN?).

Parking: Parking was an issue due to expense and confusion with the garage that connected with The Centre on the Grove. It is recommended that the specific name of the garage, the fee for parking, and the name of the entry street into the garage be available on the conference web-site.

Conference Materials: The conference booklets are laid out with clear information.



They are easy to follow. To improve the availability of accessible information it was recommended to use boards (3x5 ft) with grids to show where workshops are going to be and at what time in large print with information presented one day at a time.

Recommended Tools for Planning a Conference

Planning an event such as the conference requires an extreme amount of attention to detail. Council staff would like to recommend the following guides as useful tools if you ever find yourself planning an event such as this.

- Inclusive Meetings, Presentations and Materials
<http://itacchelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012-2013-Accessible-Meetings-Presentations-and-Materials-Product-FINAL-V.5.pdf>
- Designing Accessible Events for People with Disabilities
<http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1109117771434-33/Designing+Accessible+Events+Registration+Tip+Sheet.pdf>

Planning Committee Evaluation Results

Results of the survey completed by planning committee members:

1. *Did you have a positive experience on the planning committee? Was information easy to understand?*

Committee members reported that emails sent from the Council were clear and provided useful information, but not too much.

2. *Did you feel that your ideas were heard in meetings and that you were doing meaningful work?*

Committee members unanimously stated "Yes."

3. *Did the conference meet your expectations?*

Committee members unanimously stated "Yes."

4. *Please share your thoughts about the keynote presenters*

- **Joelle Brouner**

Committee members unanimously felt she was awesome.

- **Tracy Thresher, Harvey Lavoy, Larry Bissonnete, and Pascal Cheng**

They were great. They were funny. They presented at BSU that night and they went to Black Canyon high school in Emmett. Tracy thought it was helpful to see the movie the night before so people had a better understanding on their communication style.

5. *How reasonable was the cost to attend the conference?*

Registration costs were \$50. 51 scholarships were provided. Every registrant was required to pay a \$20 registration fee. \$4798 was raised in registration fees. Part of the decrease in amount provided in scholarships as compared to the 2010 conference, was due in large part to local SALN Chapters fundraising efforts to offset the cost of their members to attend. Committee members unanimously felt the registration fees to be reasonable for the conference events.

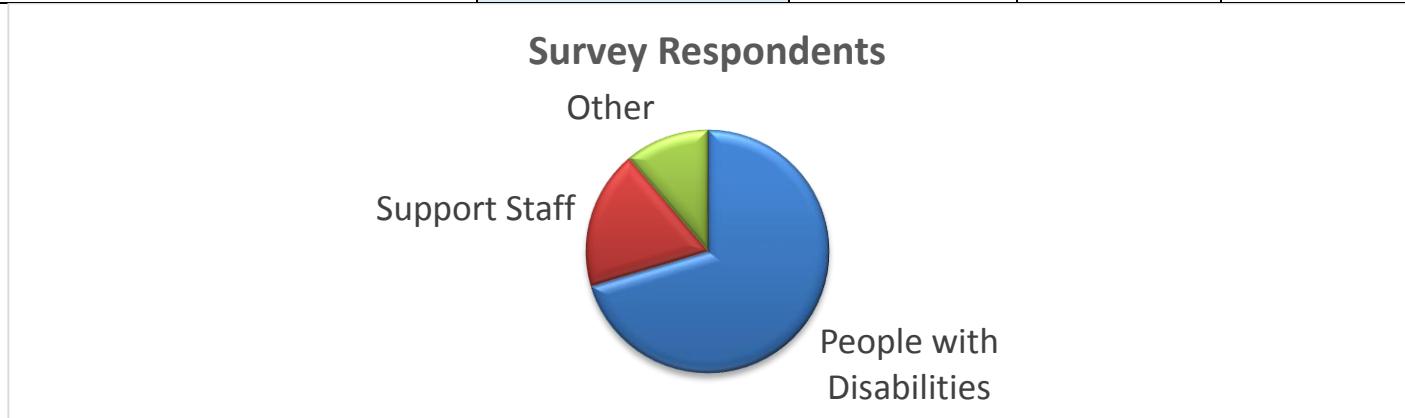
6. How satisfied were you with the lodging available for the conference?

One of the keynote presenters reported that Hotel 43 was not very accessible and the service was poor. People reported that the Modern Hotel was nice, clean, and very accessible.

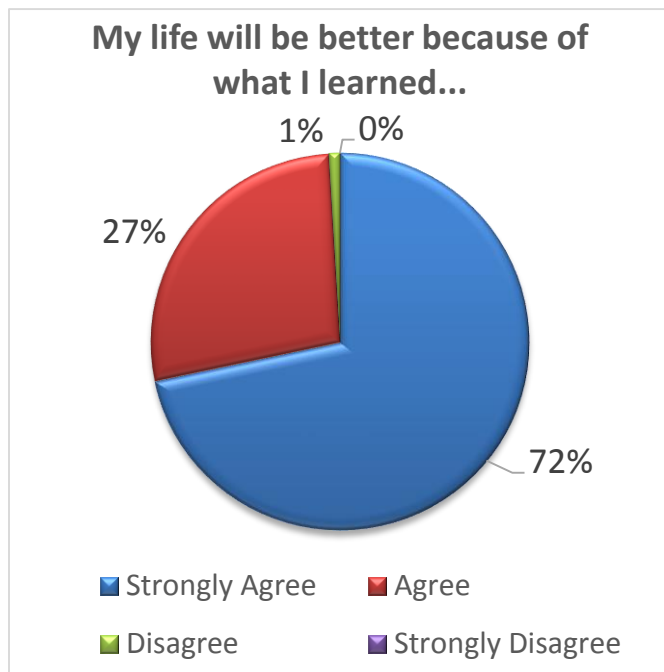
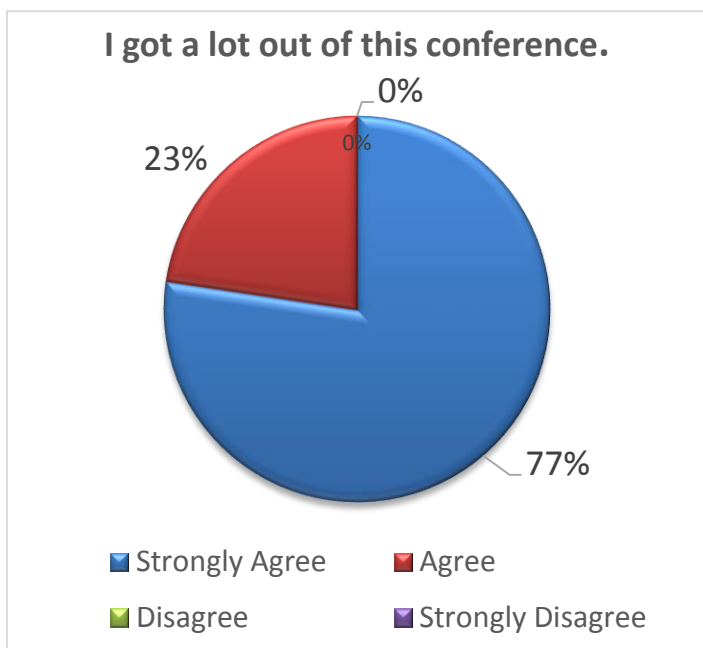
Conference Budget

Item	Cost
Centre on the Grove/Meals	\$25,222
Hotel Costs	\$12,263
Chartered Buses	\$6,233
Keynote Presenters	\$10,149
T-shirts	\$1,381
DJ for Dance	\$350
Photographer	\$2,000
Conference call for planning committee	\$2,000
Copy work	\$2,754
Personal Attendant Services	\$1,126
Boise City Taxi	\$401
Tate’s Party Rents	\$348
Miscellaneous	\$1,185
Total	\$65,412
Council Funding	\$38, 547
Sponsorships	\$21,091
Vendor Fees	\$975
Registrations Fees	\$4799

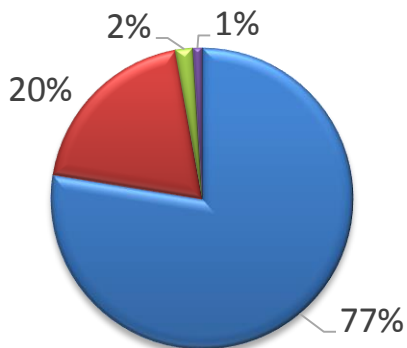
108 Completed Surveys	I am a...	Person with a Disability	Support Staff	Other
		76 (70%)	20 (18%)	12 (11%)



	YES	NO	N/A
I was treated with respect during the conference	106	1	
Because of what I learned at this conference...			
...I will have more choice and control.	98 (91%)		8
...I will be able to do more things in my community.	96 (89%)	1	8
...I know my rights.	95 (88%)	4	7
...I am more able to be safe and protect myself from harm.	96 (89%)	1	8

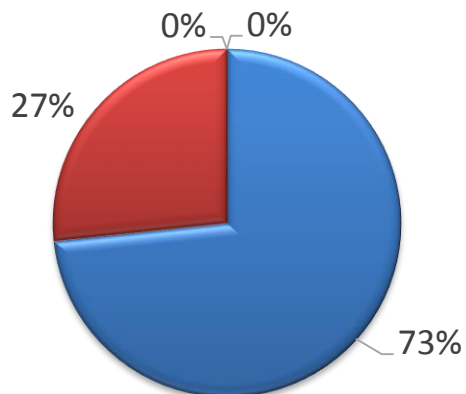


The presenters made me feel comfortable to talk and ask questions.



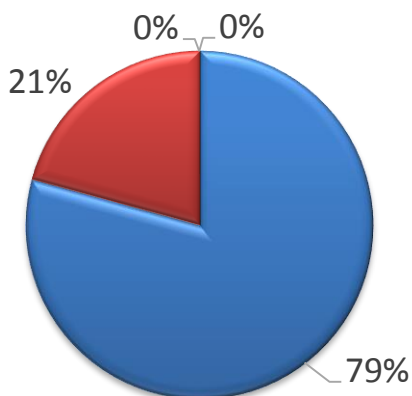
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

I learned things that will help me be a stronger self advocate.



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

I understand that my voice matters ...



■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree
■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

What was the best thing that happened at this conference for you?

Meeting new people, learning new ways to interact and be involved with community.

My daughter made new friends. Seeing the movie and meeting the “Wretches and Jabberers.” Feeling the spirit and power of all the people here. My perspective broadened. Great classes.

I was strongly made to feel important, like I have a voice. I also feel strongly that now I need to take the next step and fill a working position with and as a... *(did not complete)*.

Exploring new places, meeting new people, making friends.

I have never spent so much time with people who have disabilities. I honestly feel so differently than I did on day 1. I have always thought I was an empathetic person who truly cared for people with disabilities, but this week I have realized it is so much more than that. These folks don't need my empathy at all, they need my friendship. They have touched and moved me so much this week. I am blessed they are in my life. Thank you! *(Checked 'Other' box on front of form and wrote: "I work for the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs. I am a passionate advocate!")*

I enjoyed the dance and the opportunities to see everyone come together socially and watch my client enjoy the time during the painting session.

Watching the movie Wretches and Jabberers and meeting Larry and Tracy. Meeting new people and seeing old friends.

I got to see Larry and Tracy's movie and their incredible journey into communication.

My favorite thing was the iPad class because I learned all about the iPad and I also like the sexuality, dating and relationships class because I learned a lot about it.

Having fun, dancing, making new friends.

I had a lot of fun attending the conference and made a lot of new friends. I hope I can come back.

Well organized.

Meeting new people and helping people see the fullest potential in their life.

Making new friends. Learning more from self-advocates. Seeing old friends!!!

Awesome conference. Helpful and diverse topics, great to be in contact with old and make new friends and acquaintances. (Sue V.) I will help again!

The keynote speakers were wonderful. The Employment 1st, budgeting, and depression sessions were extremely helpful.

The presenters Tracy and Larry – awesome!!

Loved the Jabberers and Wretches! I liked the balance in the 7 breakout sessions. There were always several good choices. Next time I'll do my own publicity to try to get more people here.

I learned a lot about disabilities! I learned that the advocate does things unselfishly.

Reuniting with old friends from other advocacy gatherings.

I really like the art section.

Yes, I enjoyed the classes.

The best thing that happened to me is the dance because I like the music, and meeting Autistic men. And the classes too!

Meeting up with fellow Special Olympics athletes.

Meeting Brandy and learning how to use an iPad stuff, phenomenal working on S.A.L.N.

The best things at this conference was seeing how happy it made everyone.

I loved learning about Social Security benefits and Medicaid self-employment and painting. To run my own business lawn mowing and wood cutting firewood.

Telling my feelings through the microphone this morning.

Seeing the interaction between everyone.

I learned good information about adult life. I like the breakout sessions: Toolbox for Success, How to Save Money, and Yoga for All.

I was able to see other people and make new friends.

Socializing with peers without parents.

How everyone was treated with respect and if you didn't understand something the presenter of each breakout session was able to truly help you understand without messing up the whole lesson.

I learned how to be a better self-advocate.

Connections with new friends.

I thoroughly enjoyed all the interactions with people from all over the state. I loved the hands on painting workshop and iPad class the best, but they were all good. Joelle Bruner gave an exceptional speech. Thanks for all the work you put into this conference. It was awesome!! P.S. I have food allergies and staff was great at providing healthy food and great service.

Met wonderful people, heard good info.

Making lots of new friends.

I really enjoyed the keynote speakers they were awesome. I learned a lot from Larry and Tracy. Joelle was very inspiring. The quality of everything was great. Great presentations, great activities.

The keynote speakers.

The Wretches and Jabberers movie really opened my eyes to autism.

I make new friends.

Meeting new people. I know I will pass the information to my kids.

Hearing what works for other people.

Learning about iPad apps.

Me getting to know a lot of things at the Idaho Self Advocacy Conference.

The food and the fun.

The yoga.

Meeting Everyone!!

Making new friends and learning what an incredible staff of professionals it takes to make such a wonderful event possible.

It was fund to get to see people who I haven't seen for a long time. Especially those who live far away.

Josh the presenter was so professional. He is so successful and it is so apparent that he is a superstar!!

I felt love. *(OMG - this is my favorite survey comment EVER!!! - TEW)*

The best thing that happened was when I danced with Michelle kiss at the dance.

Painting.

Seeing old friends and meeting Larry, Tracy, Harvey, and Pascal.

The people in the conference.

How it got easier to talk to people and get a good answer was great.

Making people happy when I dressed up as Darth Vader during the dance.

I think the best thing was the Wretches and Jabberers. They were awesome and it was an awesome conference. The dance was great. The music was awesome. The food was excellent. I want to thank Christine Pisani she is the most amazing person I've ever met she is the awesomest woman I know.

Learning more about SALN and getting involved more as an advocate to others and myself, for this is Idaho self-advocacy.

I made a lot of friends and learned to be positive more.

I was able to find out skills that I will be able to use for internship and use the contacts that I've added from this conference.

I really enjoyed meeting self-advocates and learning about what they do.

Dancing.

Inspiration... "Let's change the world." Thanks Christine.

I enjoyed everyone's company. I really enjoyed Tracy and Larry.

Meeting new people and seeing new advocates join our organization.

We get to chat with the men who filmed "Wretches and Jabberers."

I actually joined SALN.

I really like the speakers, the food, and the atmosphere. The classes were a lot of fun.

Got food! Loved the dance! Got to meet new friends.

Me winning something.

Moderating public speaking and health.

I got the chance to see the incredible skills and passions and strengths of people which I don't typically get to see. I made a plan to really get to know many people who gave me incredibly overlooked areas of strengths in their lives that many people don't get to see or choose not to see. These people really RAISED THE BAR of what people of all abilities can do. Thank you for this opportunity. I AM A CHANGED PERSON!

The raffle.

The new people that came.

What could have been better?

Not much, it was so excellent! Hold conference in a hotel so participants can go to their room periodically as needed. It was a long trek back and forth with supplies, etc. Hampton Inn had a pretty good free breakfast also, which could cut costs if needed – great if they could serve right in the conference room. Also, the conference room was too cold.

I don't know. I had fun and enjoyed my time here. I hope to come back next year.

More people! Warmer conference rooms.

More hands on sessions. I felt there were a lot about rights and knowing how to make a difference, which was great, but I know a lot of the attendees enjoyed the painting and music sessions and possibly more artistic sessions or session that helps encourage new opportunities with people.

Nothing – perfect!

Location – somewhat difficult to find places to eat (affordable).

Give us more time to get ready for dance.

It would be nicer to have more time to get ready for the dance.

If Temple Grandin was one of the presenters.

Please provide handouts for breakouts we can't attend on the conference website.

Shorter times between breakouts etc.

Food was fine but not enough of it at the lunches. Parking was confusing – even though I called the Council twice to ask which specific garage had “event rate.” She told me incorrect one. The Wells Fargo garage off of 9th Street (going under building) did not do the \$10 rate. Next time maybe know the specific name of garage and the entry street to help people get the best rate. I drove down here the day before and went into 3 garages that all looked like they went down under “The Grove.” BUT, these are such small things! The conference went so well. The timing between breakouts was enough. The facility was great.

I would like to get the word out to the Latino community.

Really wish this went on for two weeks rather than one.

Keeping a closer eye on sanitary measures as far as washing hands after using the restroom.

Yes, funner things to do.

I like doing all the things at the conference.

The food. Although, it's very hard to say anything could have been better because it was such an awesome conference.

The one thing that I felt could have been better was I feel for the people that bought tickets for the raffle I feel they should have won even if they weren't present. We had to miss a couple of drawings due to doctor appointments. A phone number on the tickets, and a winning call would have been great.

More movies about disabilities, how people can start their own business like firewood cutting and landscaping and carpentry and painting and budget skills.

The news could have been here.

Breakfast the first day! Eggs and bacon not burritos!

The servers could have listened to me and not disrespect and make me feel like an idiot. On the good side I got to meet Scott Hoover, who treated me like a brother and not just a friend.

The food.

The schedules of the breakout sessions.

The food. But it was such a great conference it's hard to say anything could've been better.

The serving size.

Maybe having a forum where multiple people with disabilities tell about their barriers, their stories and have audience participation where questions can be asked about those barriers/struggles. Different perspectives would be great to hear and talk about.

Food – there was not enough fruits and veggies. Two tacos is not really a lunch, more accessible foods, penne pasta, other food that can be eaten with a fork and knife. Budgeting presentation was not very people friendly, good info but needed to be slowed down and made more accessible.

We need a take a break room where you can do something other than just sit. A room where you can answer a phone call and/or check your emails. *(support staff) (My note: this would be called "the lobby." - TEW)*

Food. Too long of a break late morning and early afternoon on Wednesday. Then too short of break late afternoon. It made it hard to give a workshop and try to attend one myself.

More snack choices would be nice – maybe fruit/popcorn.

Make the food better.

Do yoga on the floor.

Shorter breaks between classes.

Have audio materials available. Large print doesn't work for everybody. If we have another conference, we should invite the belly dancers.

Less free time between sessions.

What could have been better was if I met a girl that is my age to dance with.

More food that is better.

Too long a break Wednesday for vendor booths.

I wish I bought tickets and won but wasn't here yet that they could have called me, then I wouldn't have to wonder if I won when I wasn't there due to appointments.

Certain food choices for meals and people with allergies.

I don't think you should change a thing. I think in the sexuality class they could have went into detail more about the sex class. And the music was kinda loud at the dance.

The explaining.

More speaking.

More gluten-free and lactose free choices at meals. Advanced and beginner sessions for different level of advocates.

The food. Paid parking. Less time between workshops.

Turnout! Let's spread the word... slowly but surely.

The breakfast food and being part of the planning team for the next one that is coming. People not talking trash about others from the chapters or the past of things that happen. Would also like to come up with a last word to leave with.

The food!

The food.

We should choose what we want to eat for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The manners and not talking bad.

Time management.

I heard several stories of people who could not come based on not having "permission" from their providers to get here. I think we need to really fight for those people to have the freedom to BE HERE in 2015!

The Grove staff were amazing but about half the food was sub-par.

Food.

General Comments:

This was awesome!

I really want to work harder as an advocate!

Meet new people and learn new stuff.

Everything was great. Thank you for the experience. I look forward to next year.

I haven't been in this field very long, maybe 2 months, but this week really, really was fabulous. Thanks for putting on this conference. We will be back. (*support staff*)

Excellent conference.

Learned a lot! Thanks for this great experience!

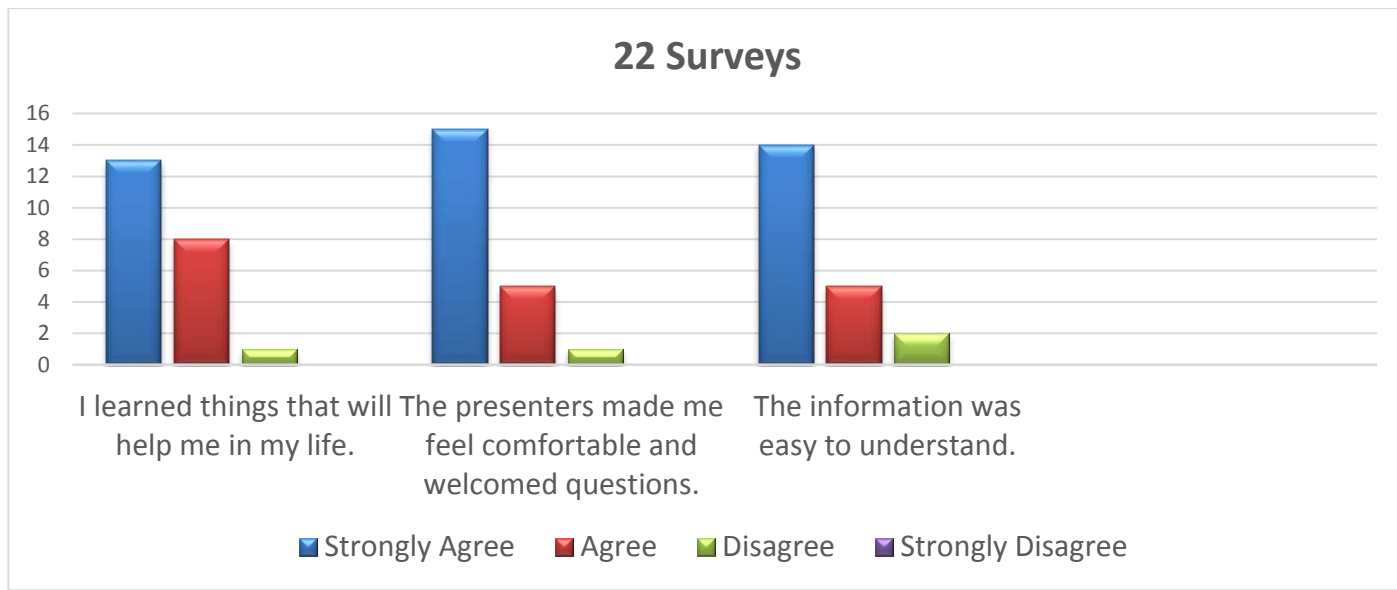
Everyone did a nice job in the classrooms and I learned a lot in the different classes. Thanks to all the kitchen staff for all the good food and their politeness. It was great seeing old friends again. Will be back again.

The conference was extremely well organized. The packets for the moderators were very clear with clear instructions. Facilities were great because there was so much more room than the previous year's facilities. Food and food portions were great.

Thanks for all the hard work to make the conference so effective.

Breakout Session Surveys

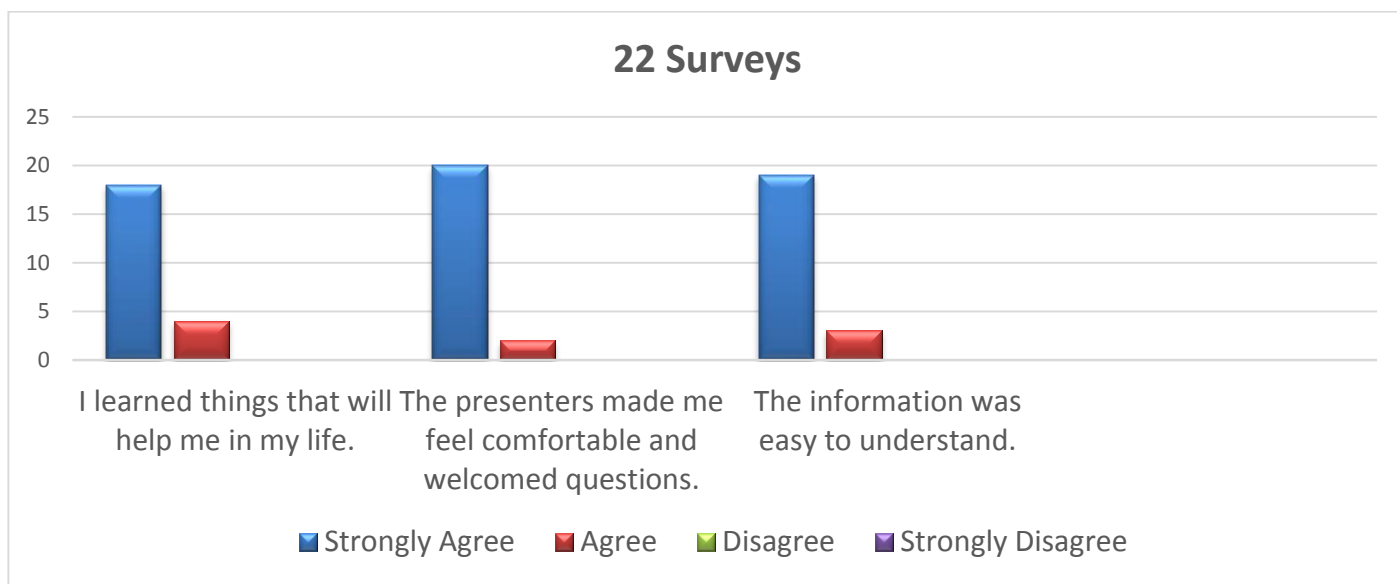
Disability Friendly Recreation [E. Kovarik, B. Kotewa, D. Dyer]



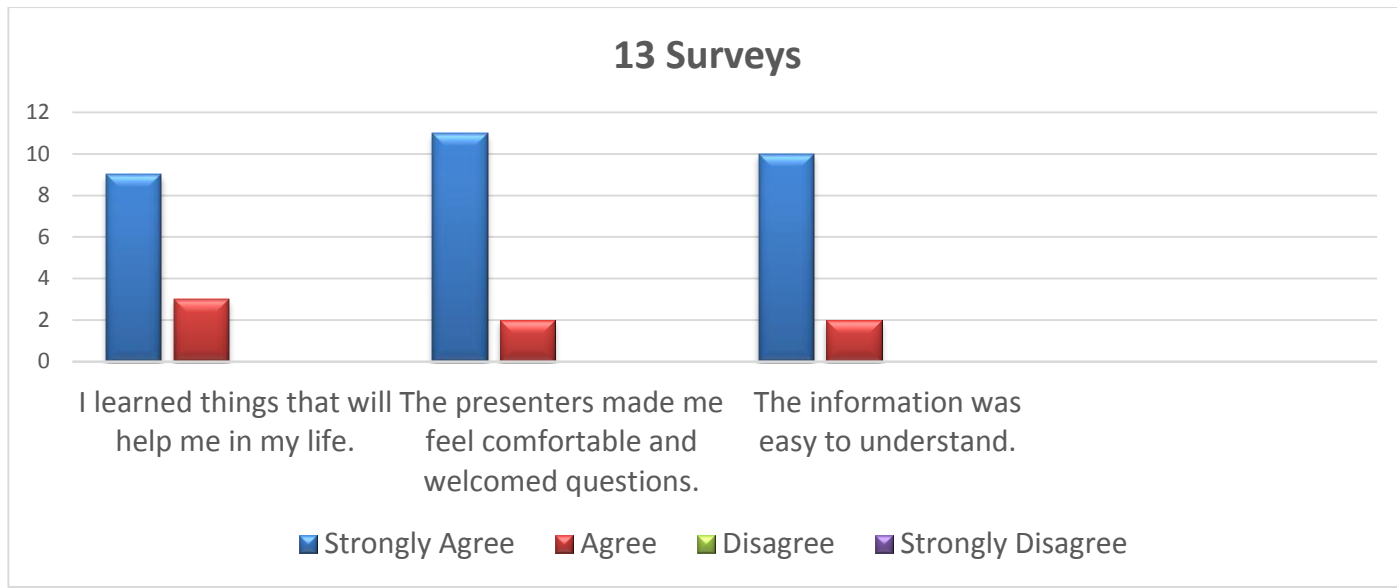
Comments:

Thanks! Emily you are always helping others!

Toolbox for Success [Mel Leviton]



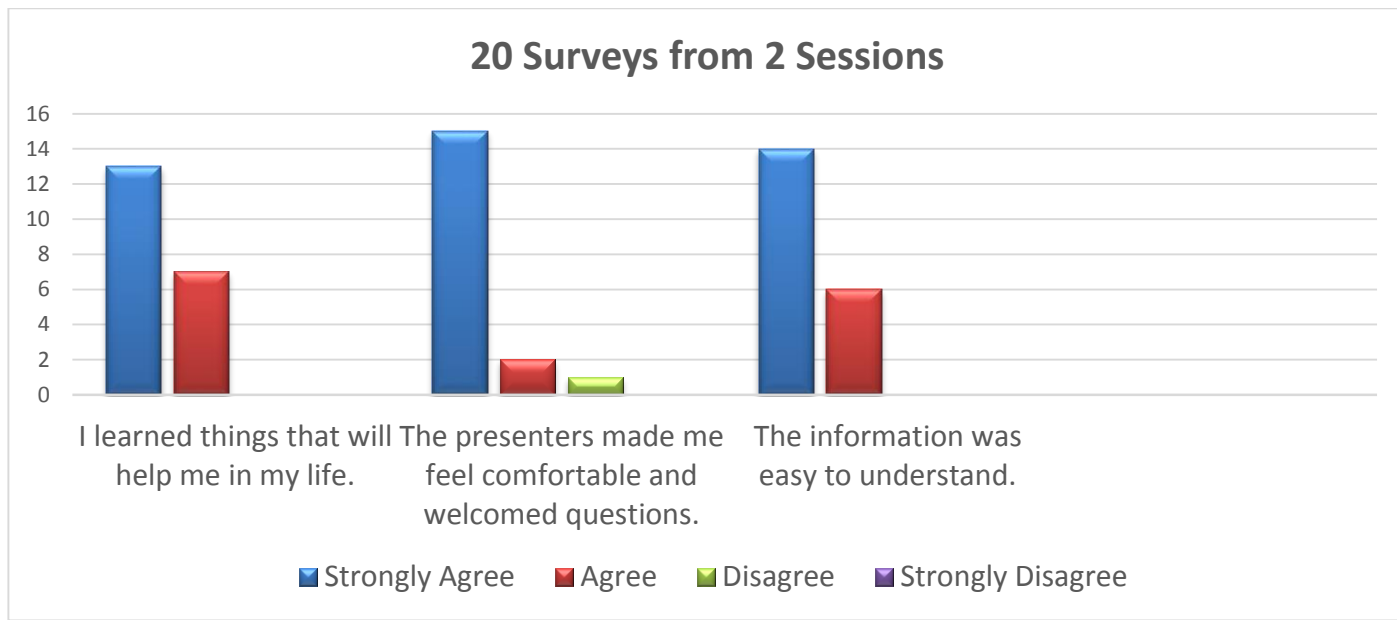
What is SALN and Why Is It Important? [Shiloh Blackburn, Jen Magelky-Seiler]



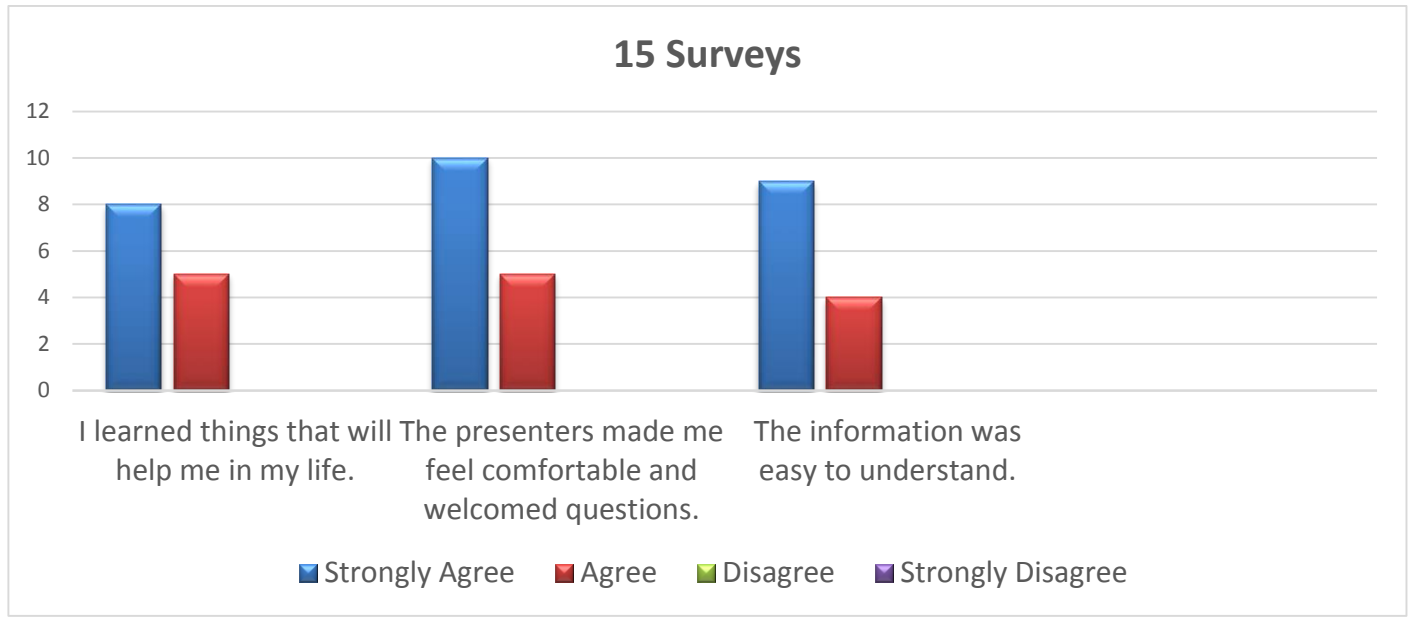
Comments:

Shiloh and Jen did a fantastic job! They were well spoken, energetic, and real! Thank you.

Working and Social Security Benefits [Scott Hoover, John Kihara]



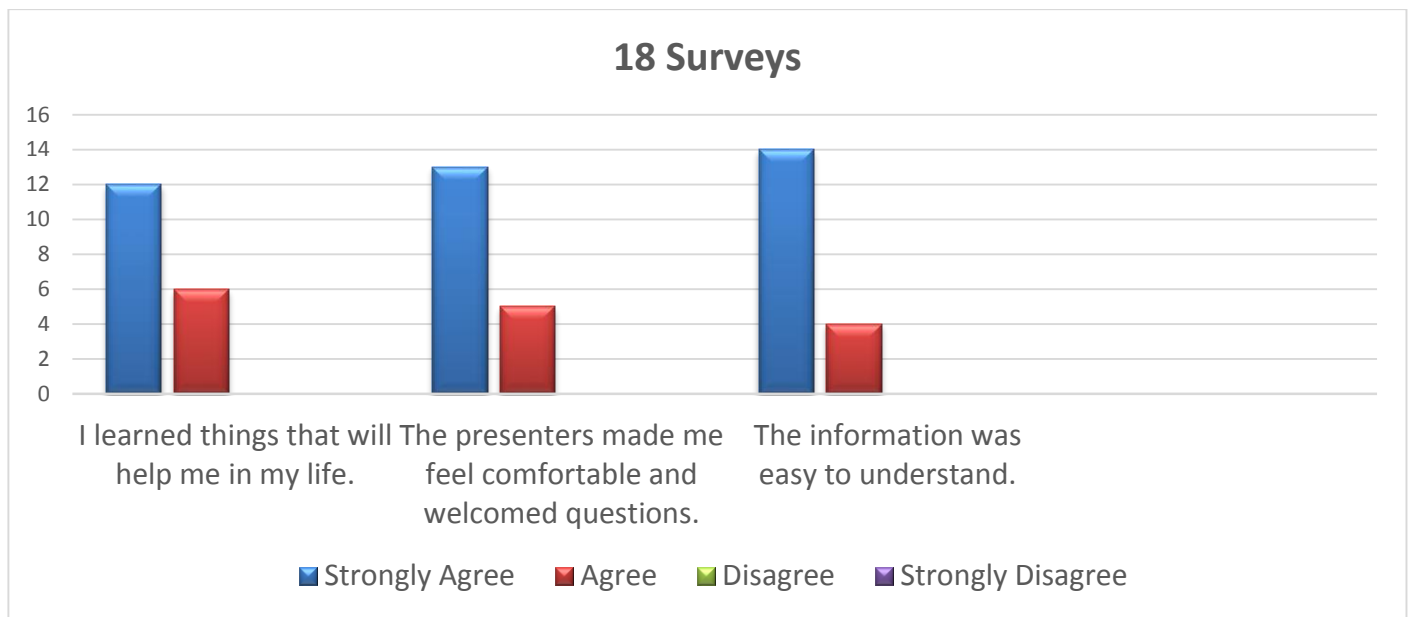
Think Positive [Rick Huber]



Comments:

The room was a bit cold.

Self-Advocacy and Public Speaking [Tom Ball, Pat McAllister]

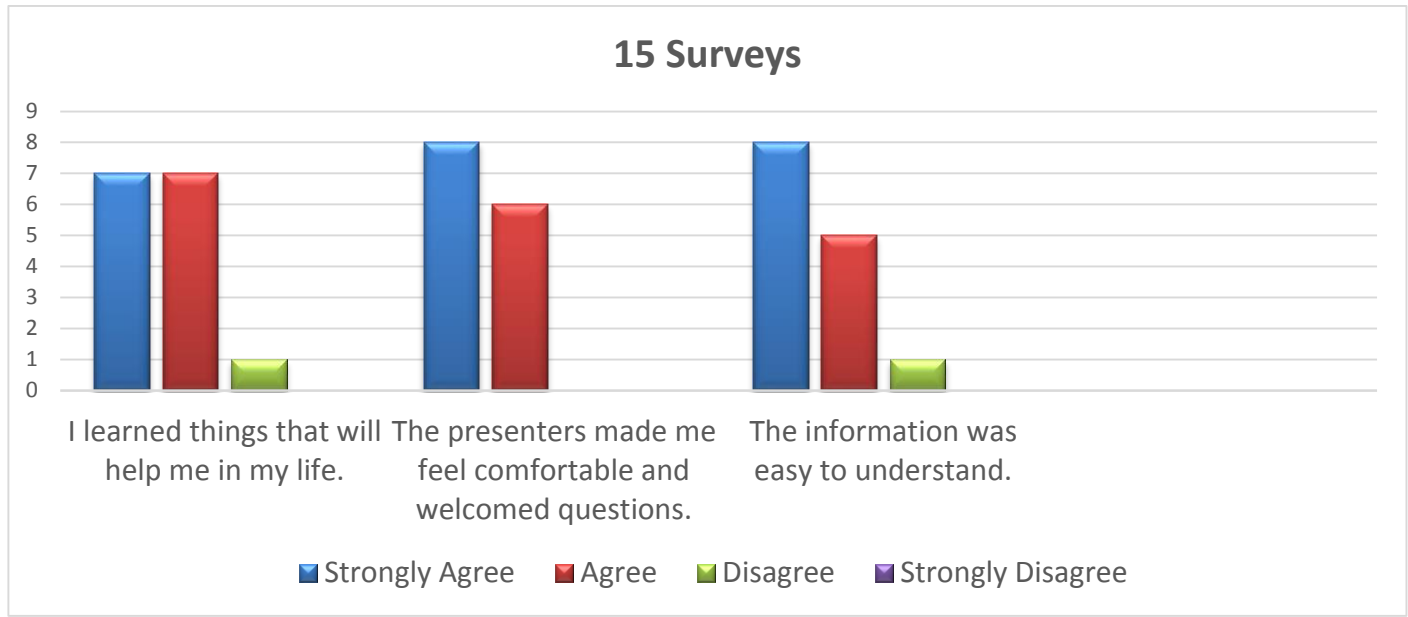


Comments:

Thank you. Very inspiring.

Excellent Pat and Tom!

If I Don't Change It Who Will? Let Your Voice Be Heard [Shiloh Blackburn, Joe Raiden]



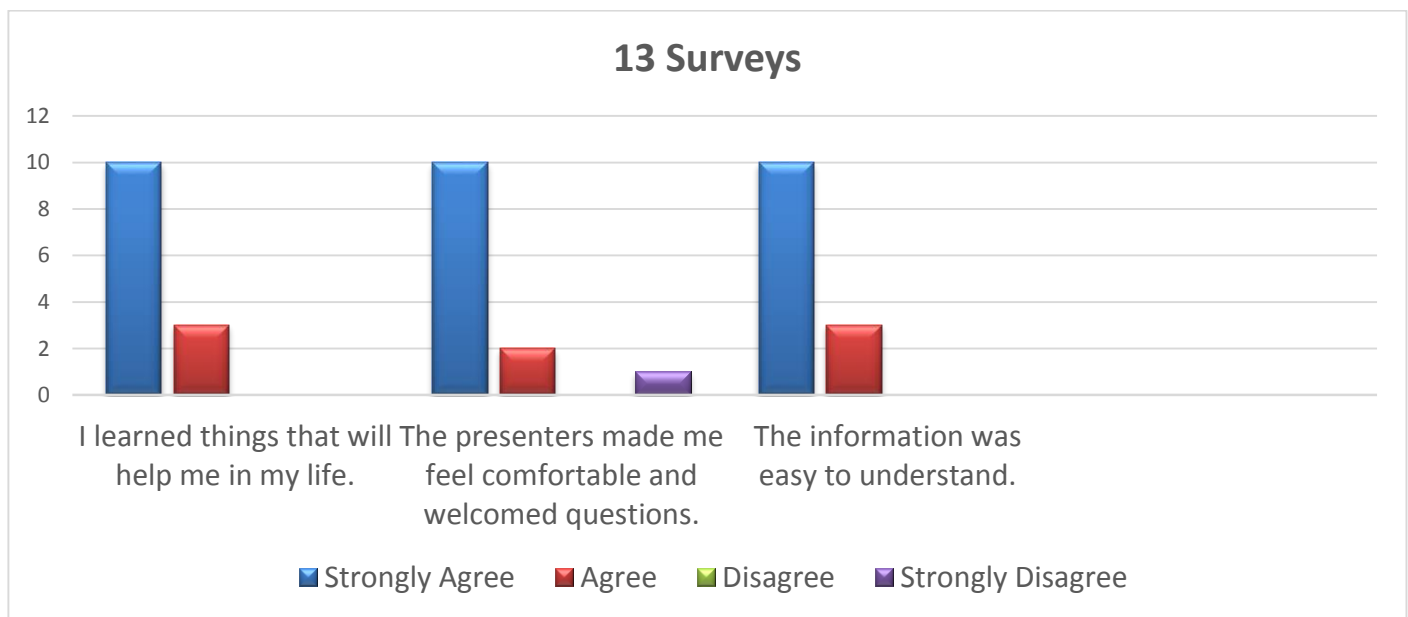
Comments:

Awesome job.

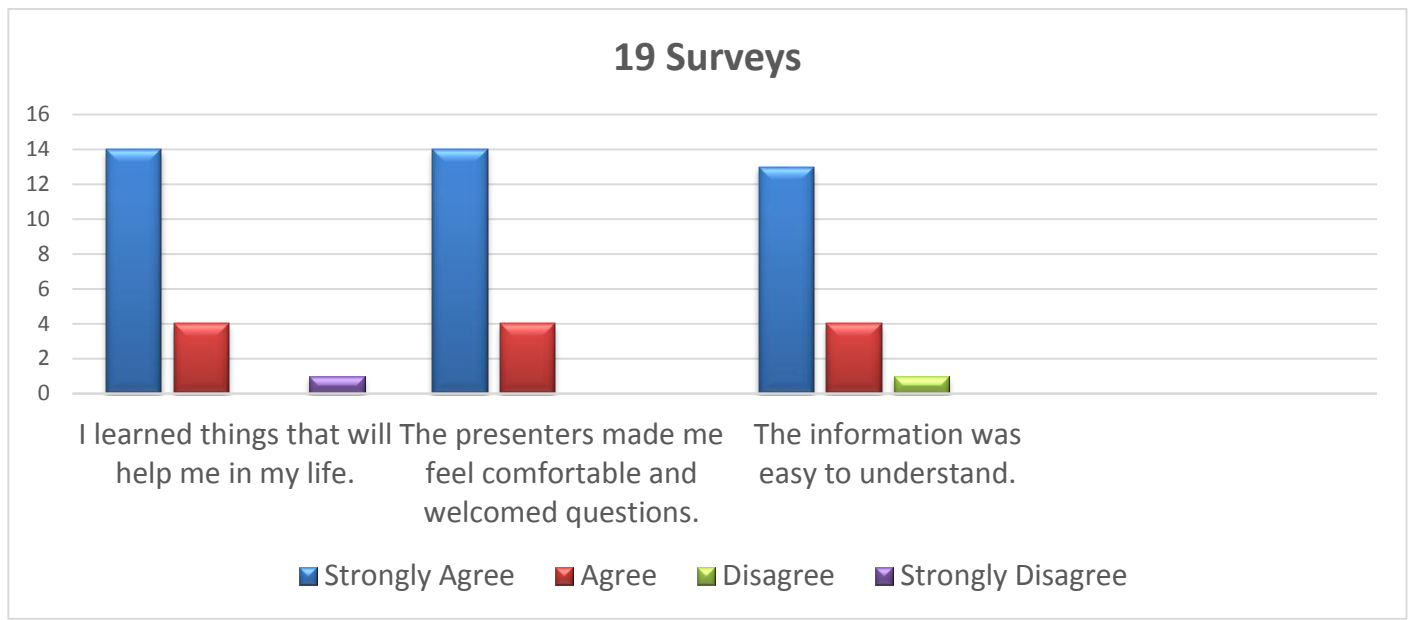
I think the presenters did a great job. There was some trouble with the video and we couldn't hear it very well. Could we get a legislator at the next event?

This breakout session was one of the best I have gone to. It was a breakdown of how to do things.

Yoga For All [Martha Hopper]



Have Tablet, Get Job and Other Tablet Apps [Dan Dyer, Toby Schultz]

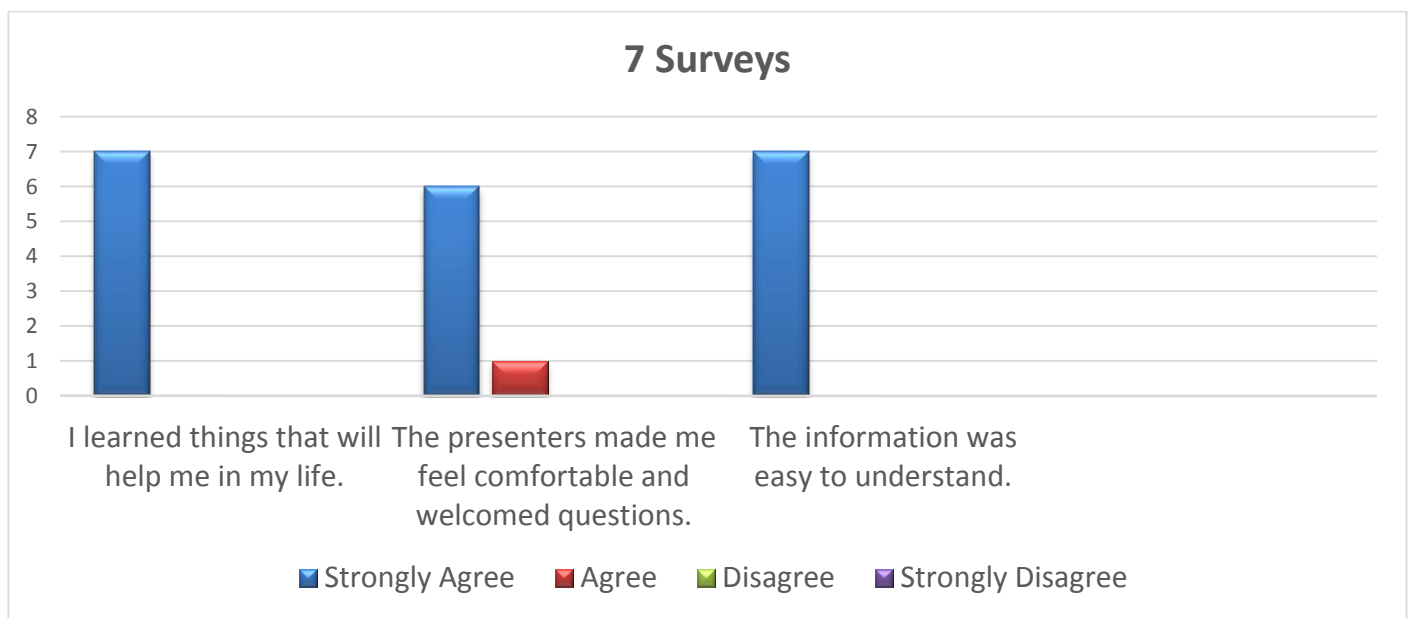


Comments:

She didn't understand. (next to mark by Strongly Disagree)

I do have a brain injury, so it was good otherwise though. Thanks. (next to mark by Disagree)

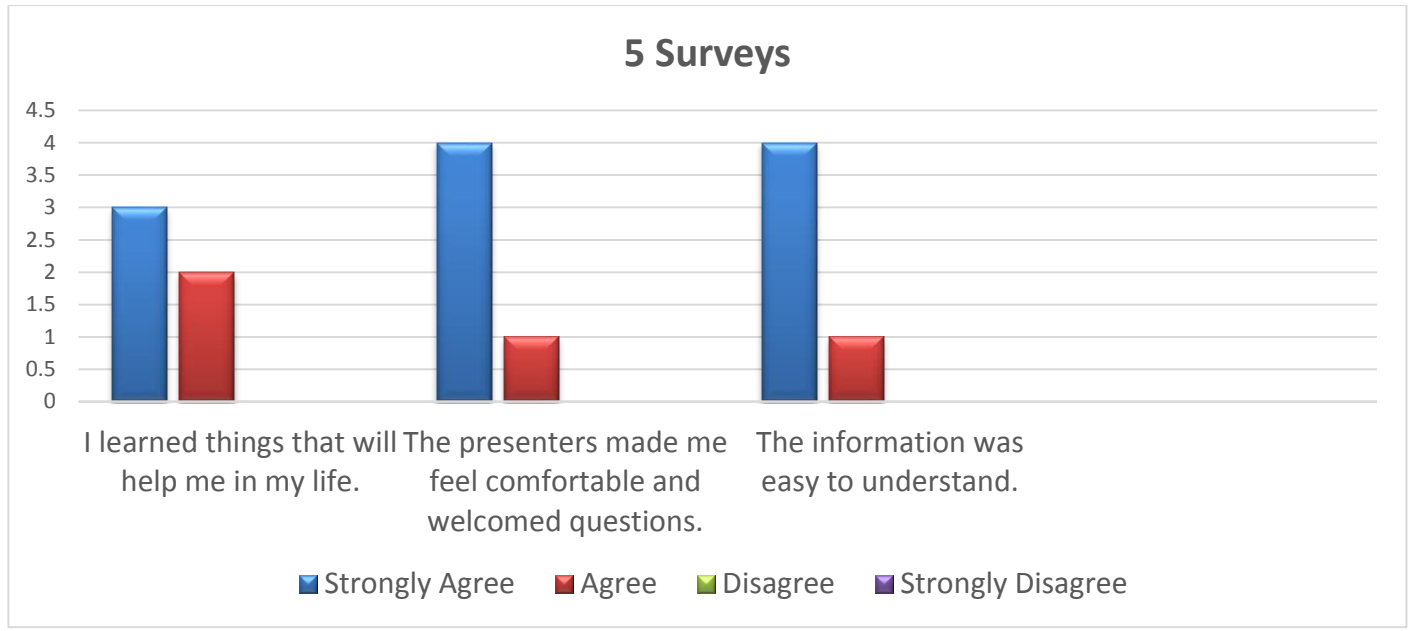
Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities [Monique Johns]



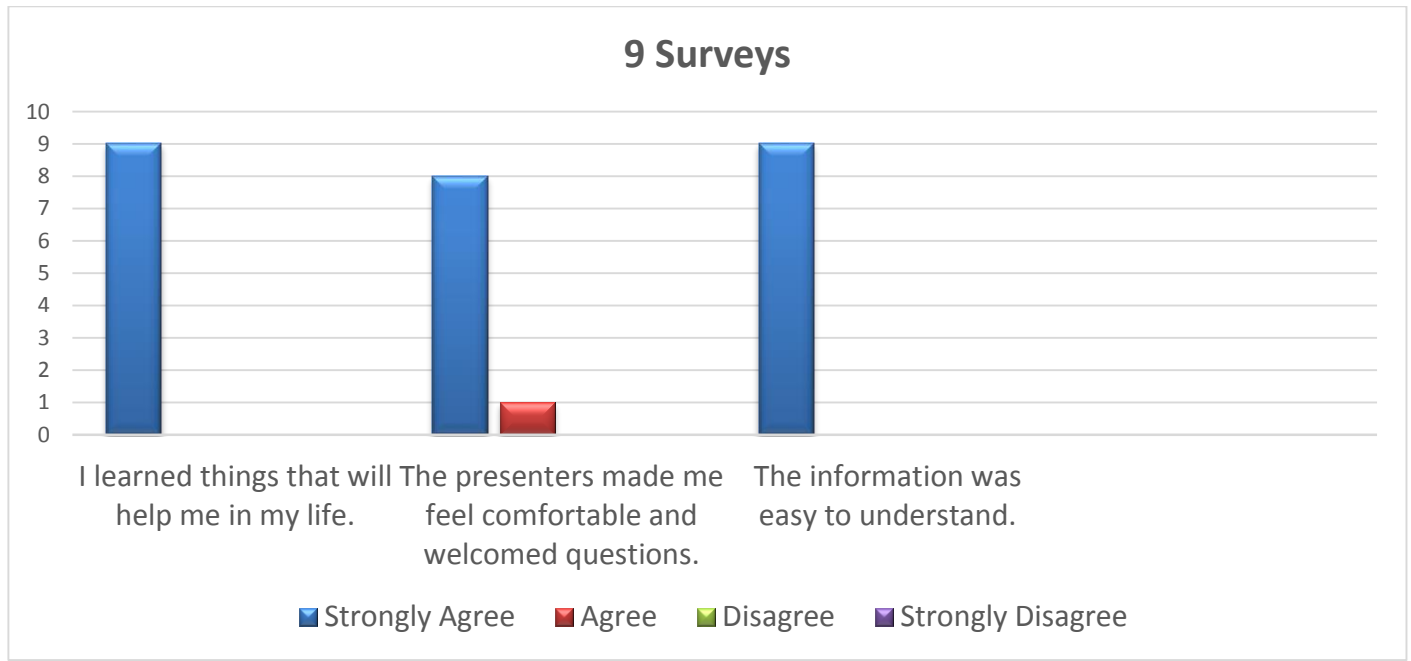
Comments:

Great job.

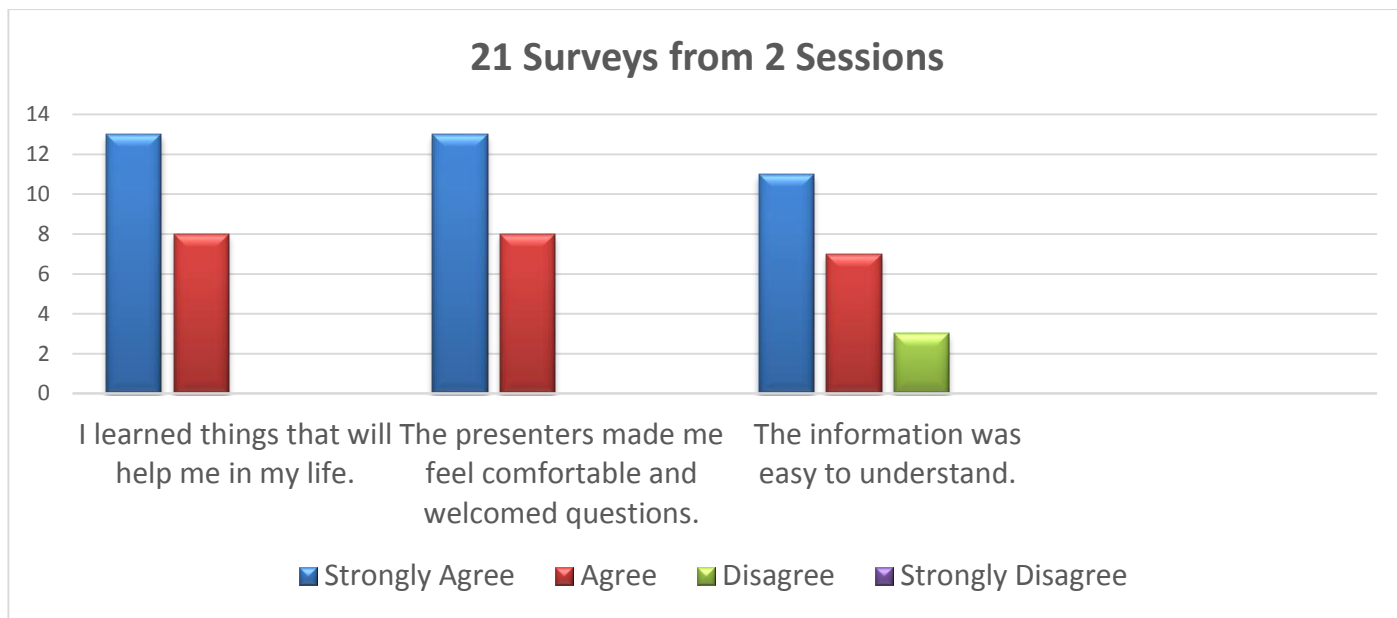
Healthy Transitioning [Cami Smith, Angela Lindig]



Stretchin' Tonin' Breathin' [Susan Warren, Jane Donnellan, Manny Guerra]



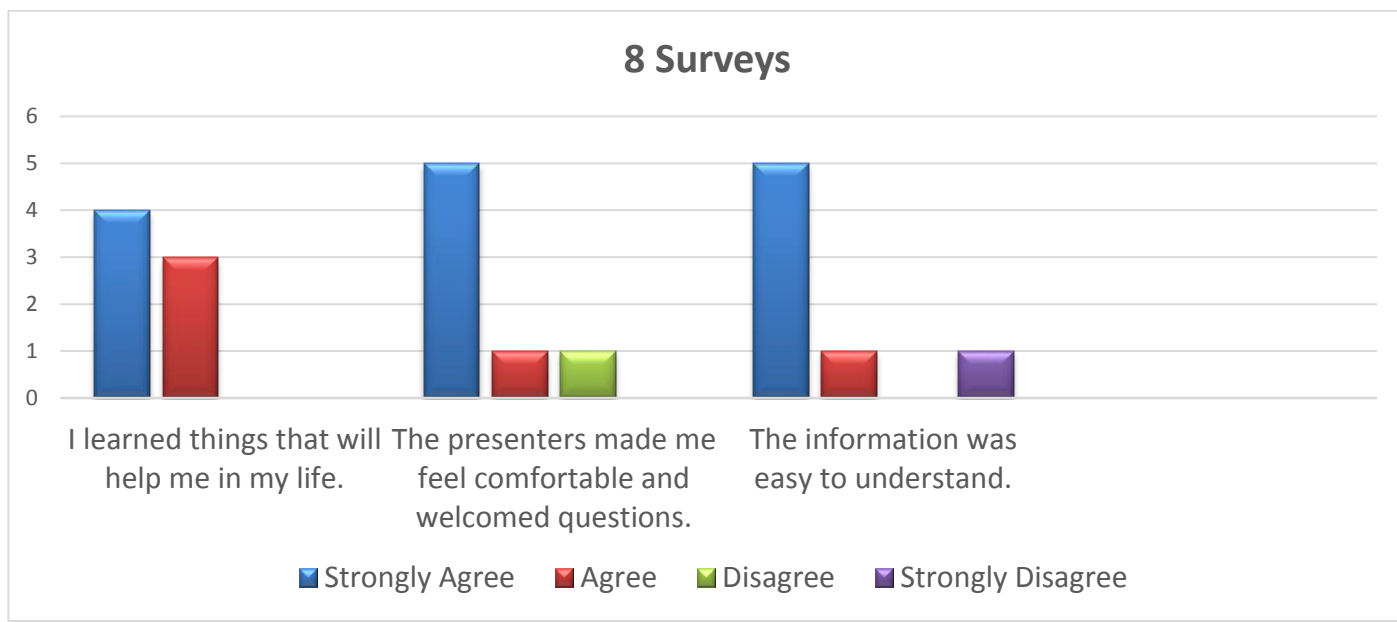
How to Save Money to Get or Do the Things You Want [Laurie Lowe]



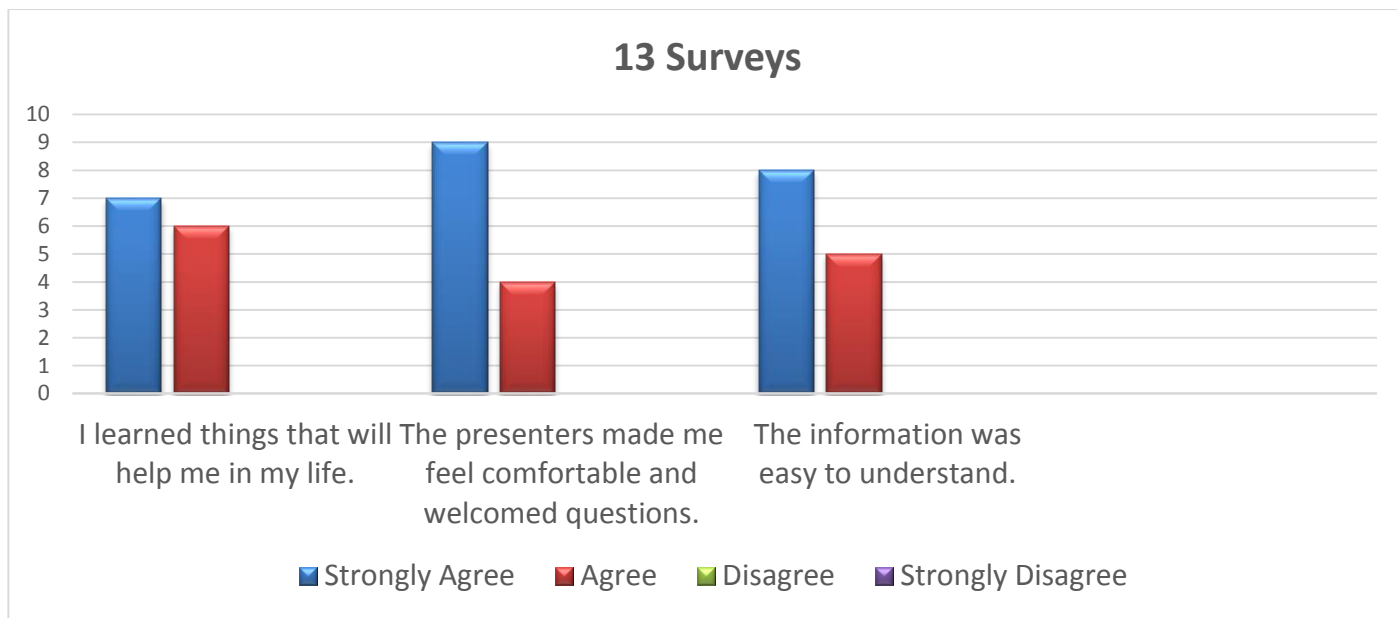
Comments:

It is a lot of info at once, but good info. May need to slow down the steps.

Determined to Vote [Joe Raiden, Rick Huber]



How to Speak Up for Yourself [Josh Renn]

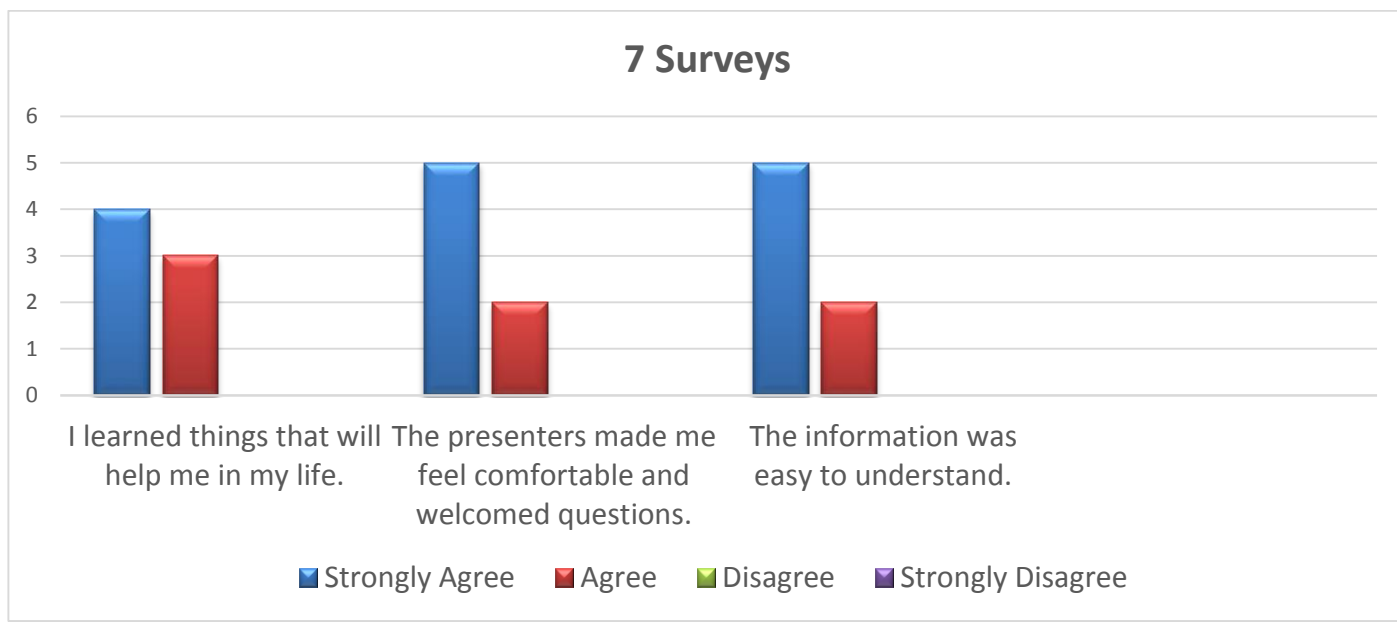


Comments:

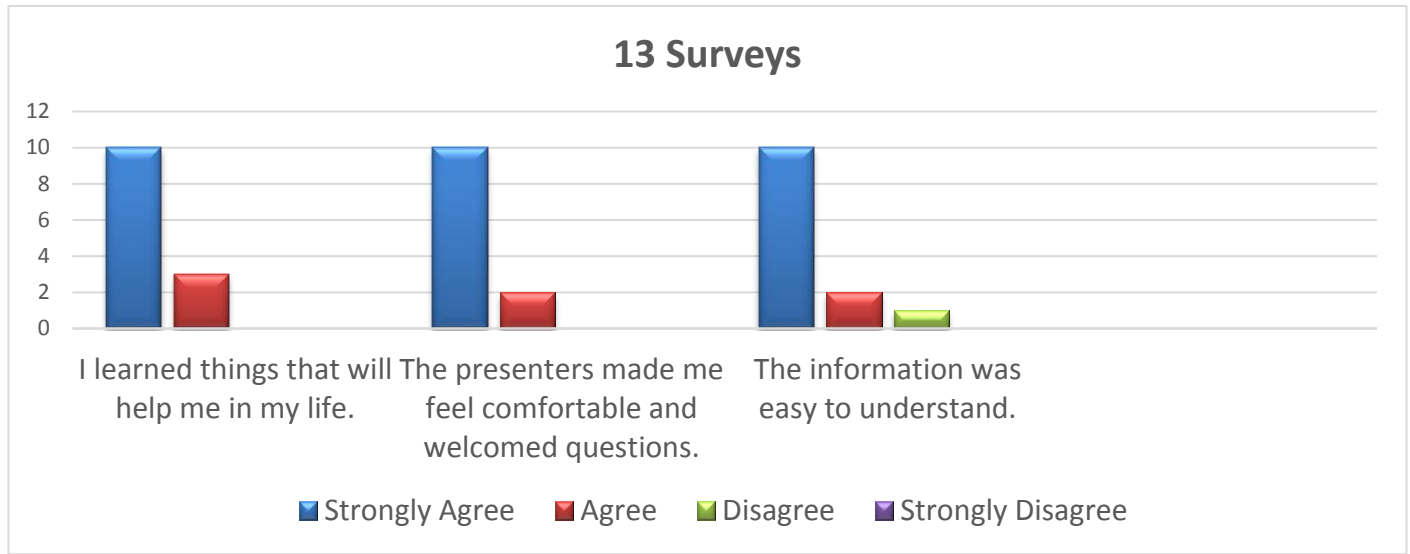
We write our own endings.

You rock.

From Advocacy to Coalition [Denise Myler]



Finding Your Voice to Inclusion [Denise Myler]

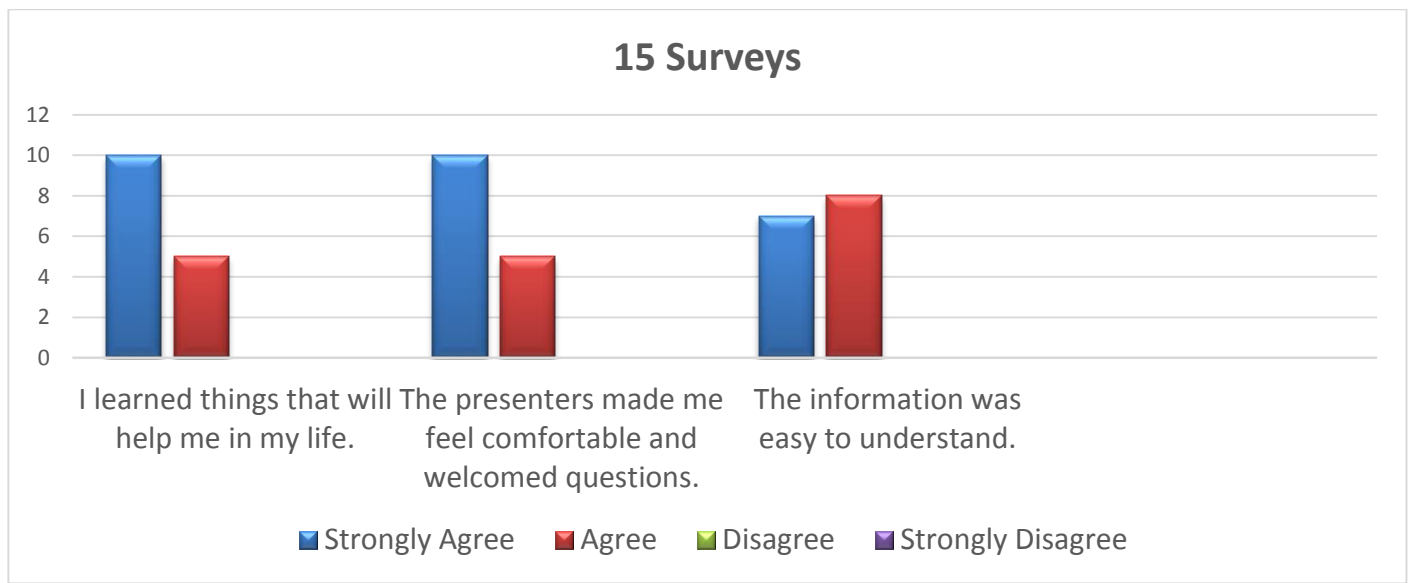


Comments:

Very cool and funny! You're a great speaker!

She was very informative and comfortable to be around.

The Nuts and Bolts of Supported Living [K. Herbert, S. Blackburn, L. Seiler, N. Brasley]

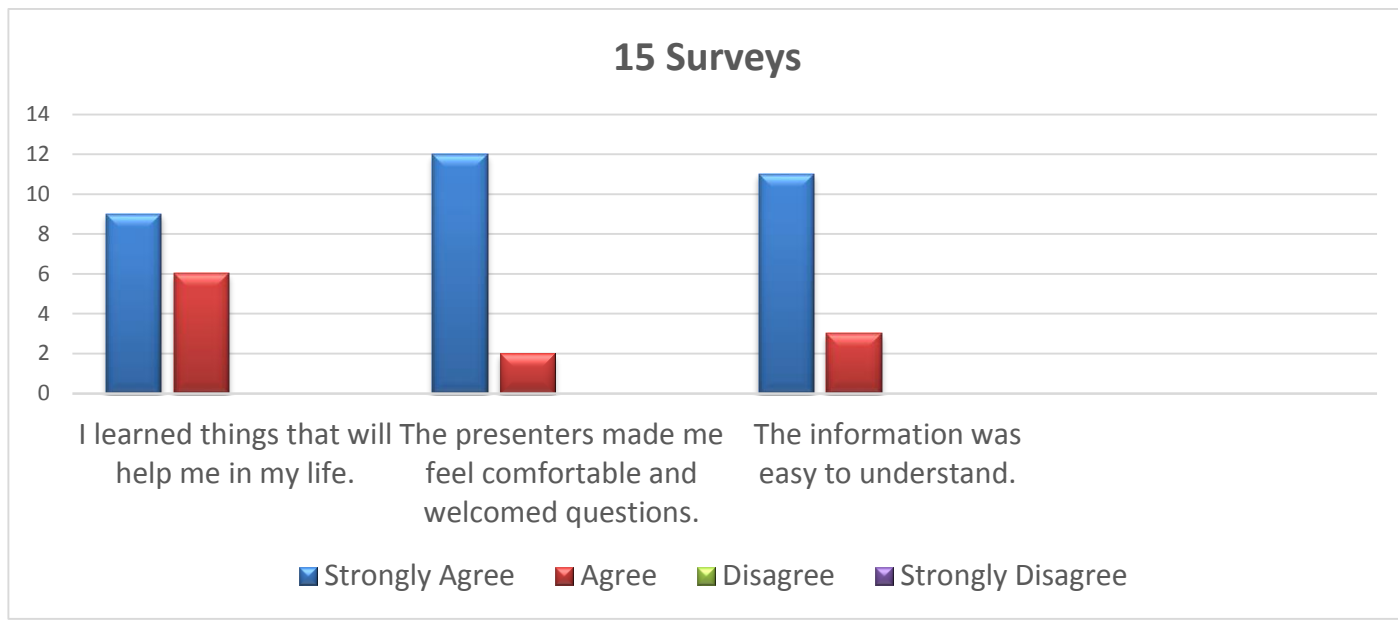


Comments:

I think it is a valuable workshop and useful to hear people stories.

More information for people coming into the system. Flyer – list of supported living services?

When My World is Falling Apart [Matt Larson, Kelly Hardy]

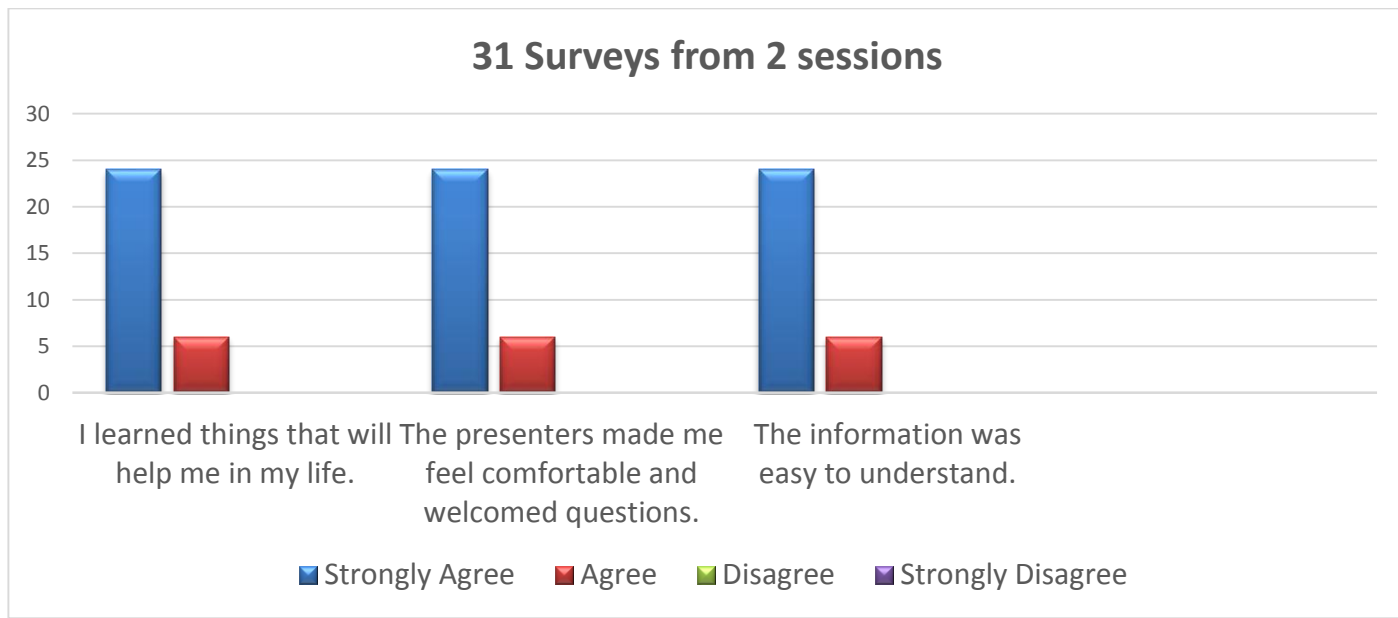


Comments:

Thank you.

Great!

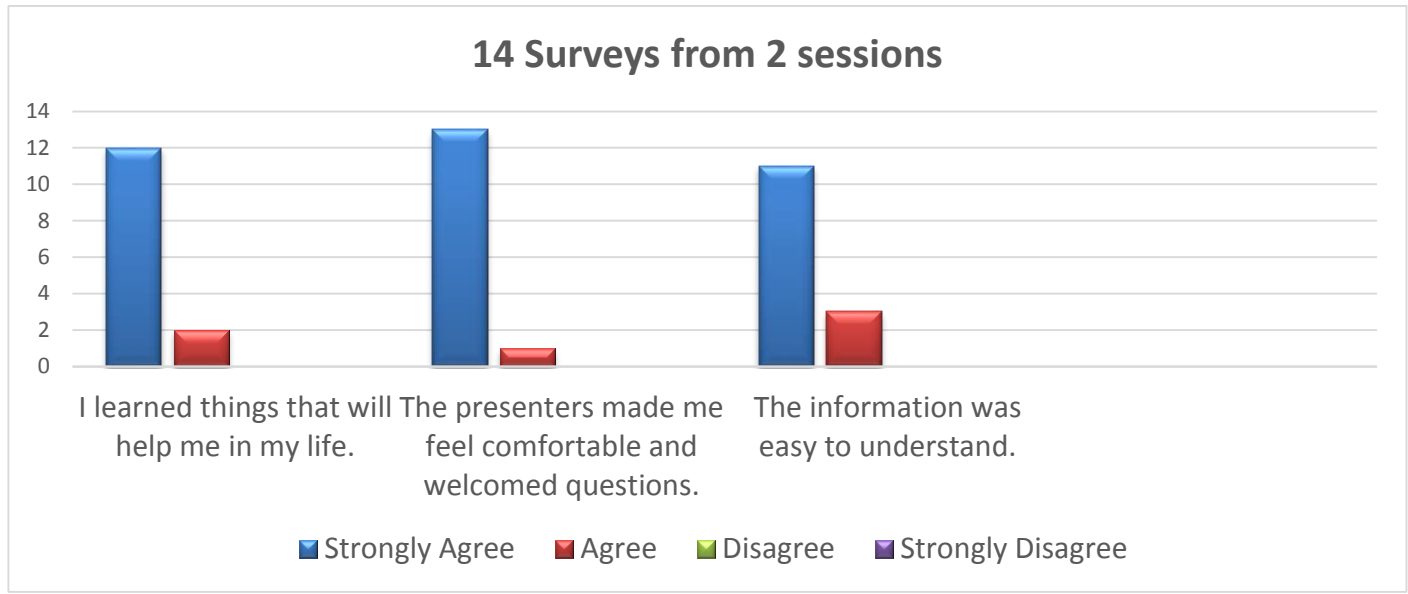
Dating, Relationships, and Sexuality [K. Beaver, K. Gillette, T. Ball, P. McAllister]



Comments:

There was a little going off subject. Would have liked to hear more from Kristin.

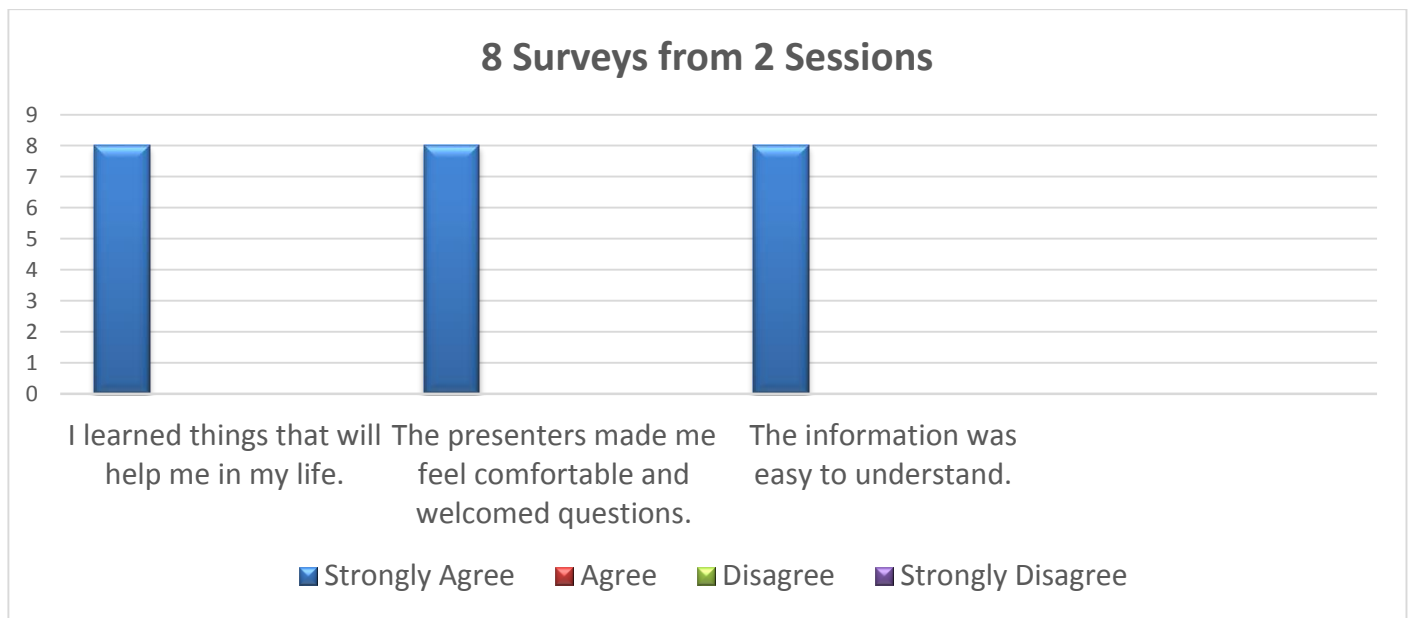
Finding My Own Power (Part 1 & 2) [Joelle Brouner]



Comments:

(I combined sessions because Part 1 had only one survey.)

Employment First Part 1 & 2 [Becky Woodhead, Noll Garcia, Tracy Warren]



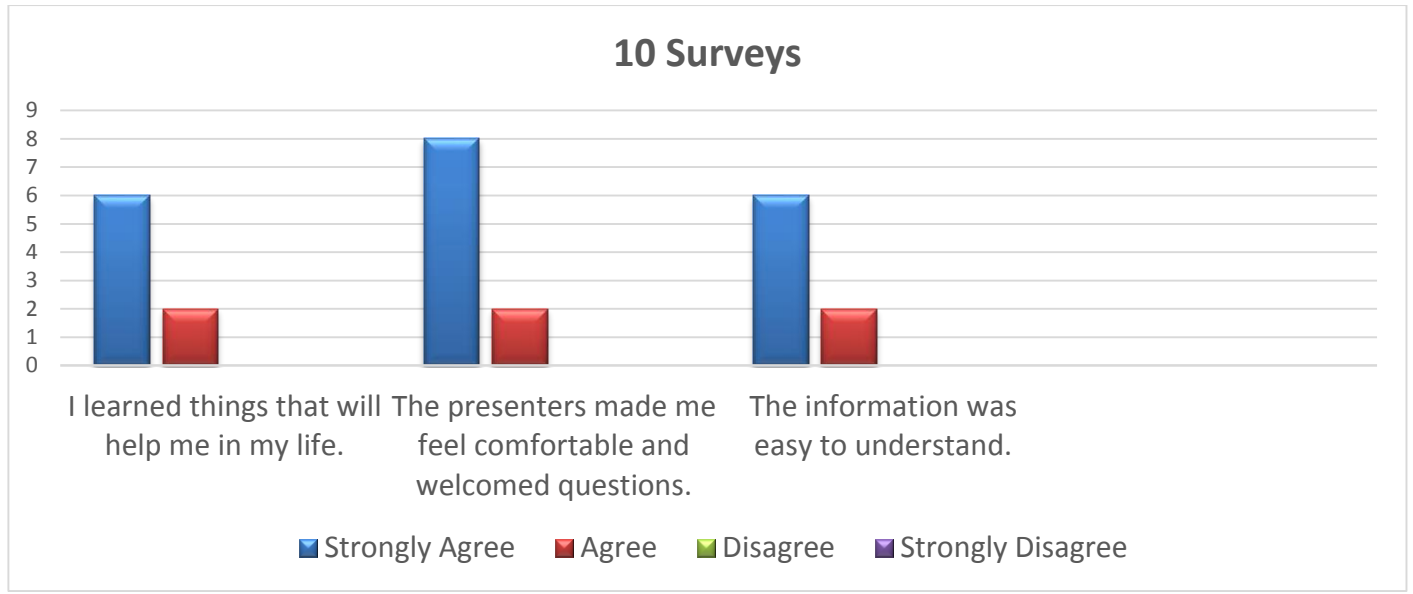
Comments:

I loved this session!

3 people signed up to be contacted to be on the Employment First Advisory Committee.

(I combined sessions because did both parts in each session because of low turnout.)

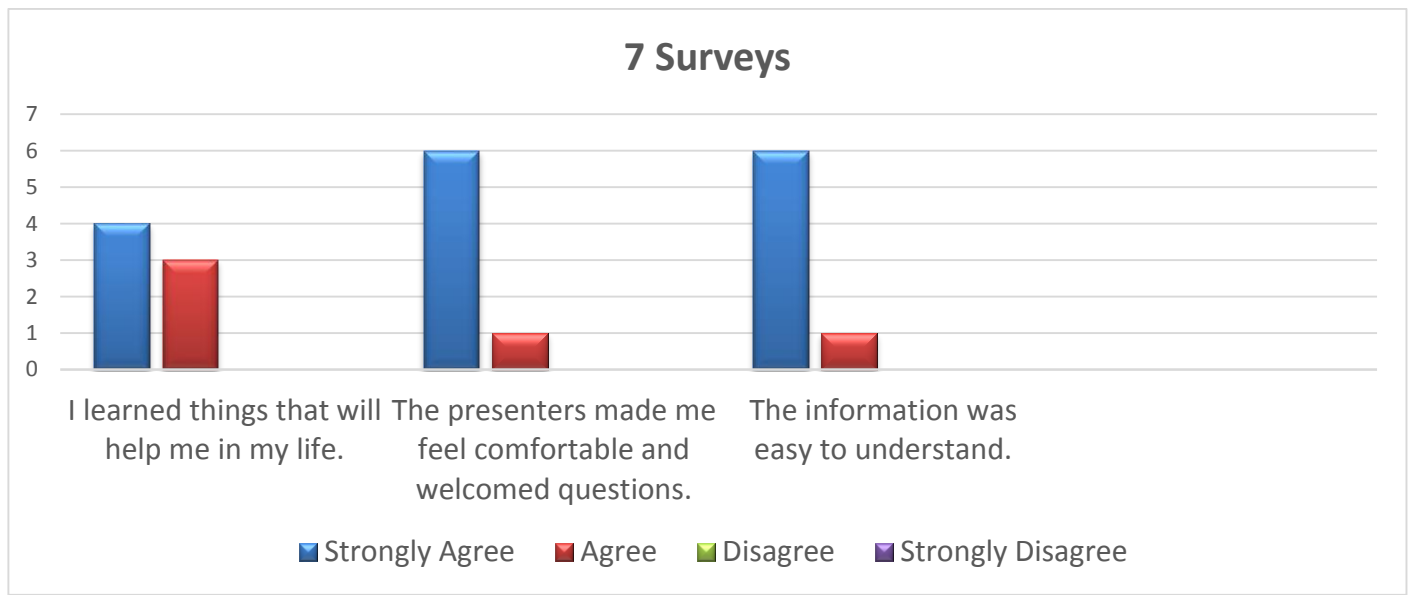
Painting Is Fun Is for Everyone! [Toby Schultz]



Comments:

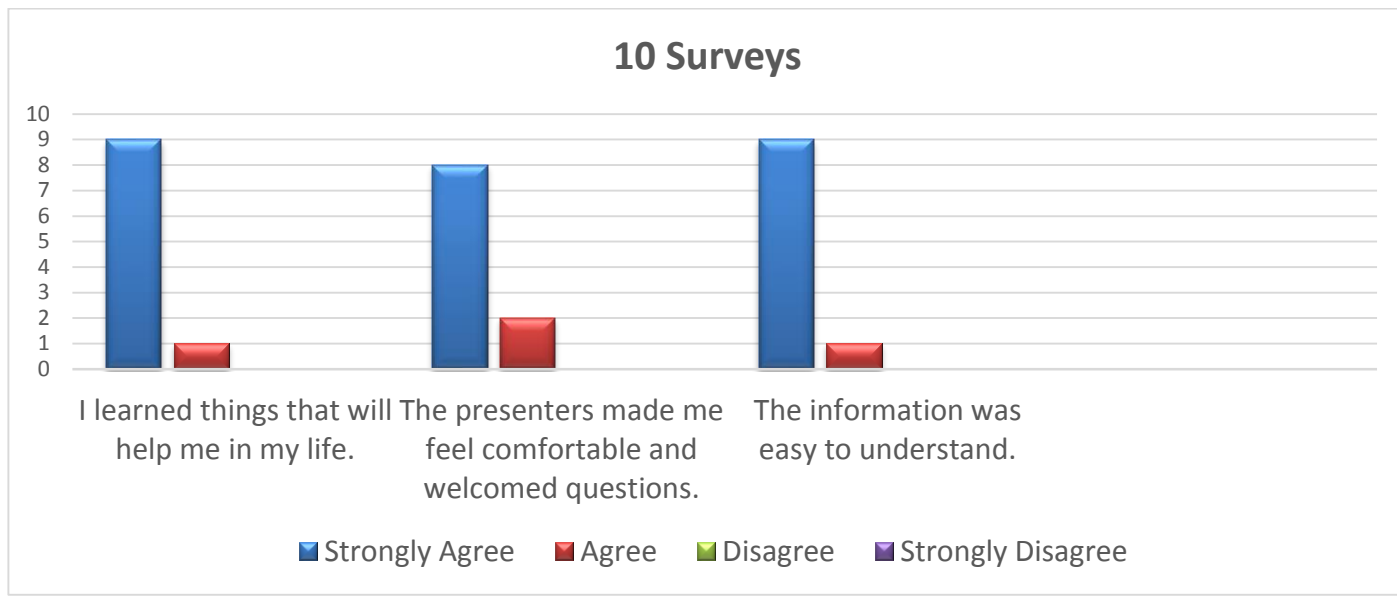
Awesome! Thanks for the real art that we got to try!

Strong and Supported Families [Theresa Gardiner, Brenda Kotewa, Rachel Raiden]



Grassroots Advocacy: Moving from Self-Advocate to Community Advocate

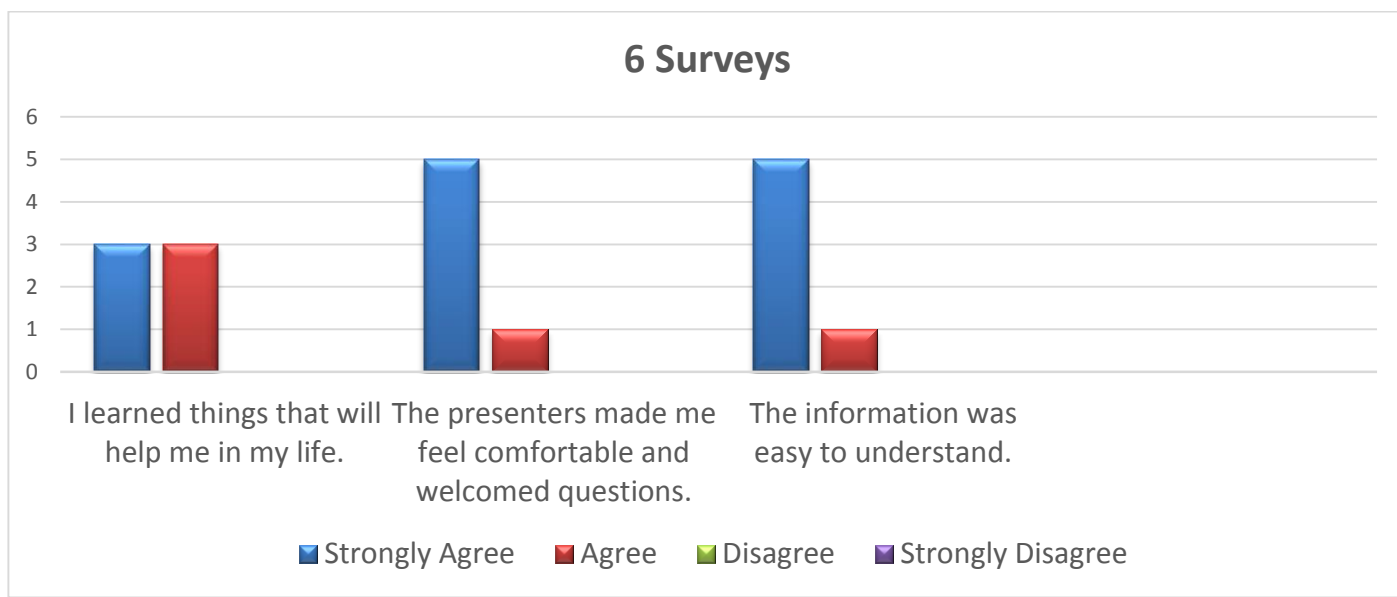
[Mel Leviton]



Comments:

I learned a lot, thank you Mel!

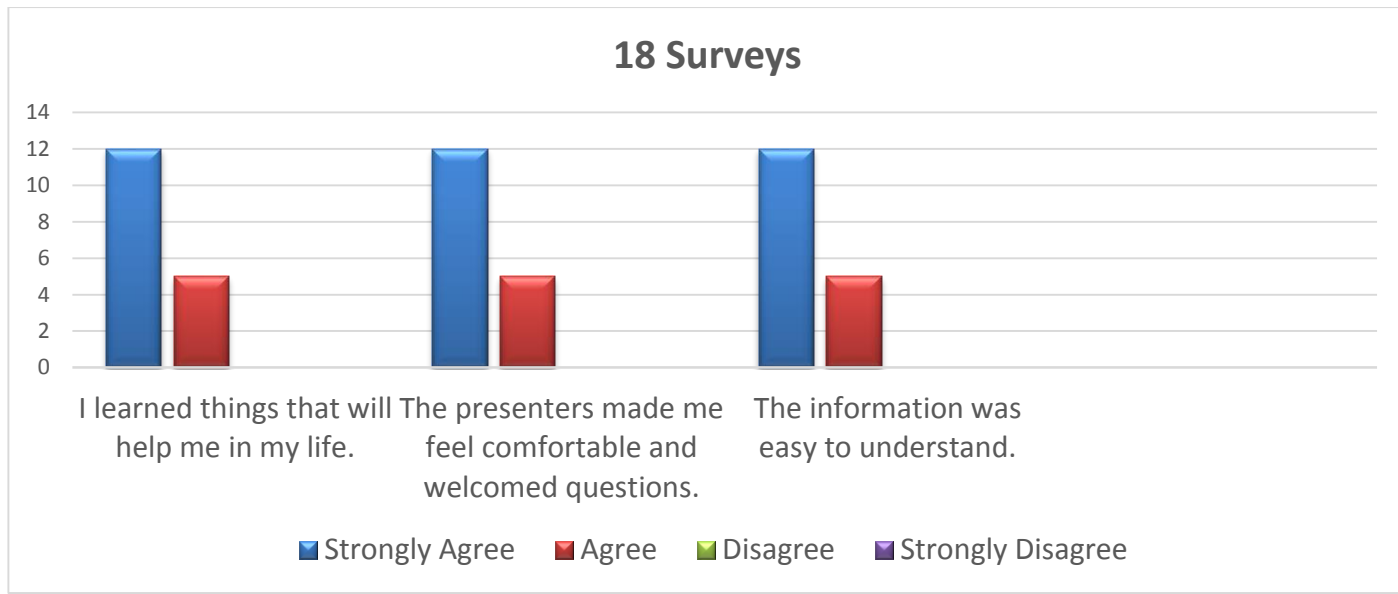
How to Appeal a Medicaid Decision [Larkin Seiler, Nora Jehn]



Comments:

Larkin was difficult to understand.

Music Is the Best Medicine [Nathan Brasley]



Yoga For All [Bill Dial]

