

July 2022 Director's Report

- I was the MC for Pride fest. I think it went well and I am glad that they asked PFW to be there. I think there were about 30 vendors there and it was good to go around and network. There were vendors that were new to me. Being the MC was a learning experience for me. Some of the names were hard for me to say, but it was good to try. I learned about different groups including an African group, a chore, and a Native American women and her culture and she also did a dance. We were able to give out prizes like PFW shirts and cups and we came home with a lot less than what we went with which is good.
- We have the SD retreat. It went well and it was not to be able to be in person and see everyone face to face. We have not met in person in two years. We talked about the upcoming conference. We are excited to be able to have the conference in person and virtually.
- Nancy and I went to Our Place. I was able to present a little about my story and my book. Then I listened to their stories and we had a good discussion about advocacy. I was able to answer their questions as well.
- We also had our staff retreat and we were able to have it in person. I like that we are able to get back to being in person for some of our things because then we can build on our relationships. I really enjoyed the food and being there because it was really relaxing. We were able to paint letters for the SD conference. I had a lot of fun as well. We worked on our fellowship and were able to work on things together and enjoy being together doing activities. I think this is a good thing to have every year because then we can be together and have a good time as a staff without stress. Staff also got gifts. This is the first time I was able to put on a retreat for staff so I really enjoyed, so stay tuned for next year.
- I was able to participate in. I told them it is important to get youth involved early regardless of disability or not. Make sure to speak simply and make sure to let them make decisions on their own, and to give them responsibility once they get to middle school. I think all youth should be learning about each other regardless of disabilities. It should not be segregated. I think when they are young they are more open to all people. They don't necessarily know the different if someone has a disability and this is the time for them to be able to grow those relationships that would be helpful when they are older. These are our future role models and I love being able to work with them. You never know what will come out of kid's mouths. We have to have a listening ear for them because they have a lot to say.
- I think the bus filming went well. I think I was able to education them on better ways to work with people with disabilities. It is important for them to be patient with people. The new buses have. One thing I did say to them was about the mask mandate. I see a lot of the drivers not wearing their masks, so others will see that and also not wear them. It is also important to bring the bus to the curb because it isn't the safest if people have to come off the curb or some may not be able to do that. It is important for the bus drivers to be courteous to all that come on the bus because it's not anyone's fault if you are having a bad day. I said if it's that bad they should stay home. I do my best to be courteous back to them because I know that is important. I think they liked hearing what I had to say and it turned out to be a good day.

July was really busy for and August will be busy, but not as bad.