

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council  
Coldstream Training Room  
Monday June 4, 2018 9AM – 1 PM**

**In attendance today...CAC members**

Jennifer Hicks  
Claudia Johnson  
Jennifer Ulbricht  
Elaine Brown  
Stephen Craker  
Jay Tyner Wilson  
Cathy Jo Edwards  
Camille Collins  
Morgan Crawford  
Walt Bower  
Traci Brewer  
Vickey Reilly  
Jennifer Mynear  
Morgan Crawford

**Guests:** Allyson Messenger, Chatia Frazier

**Presenters:** Bev Harp, Laura Butler, Jeff White, Caroline Gooden, Carrie Canady, April Bruce, Katy Sutton, Wendy Wheeler-Mullins

**Technical and other assistance:** provided by Maurice Dawson and Judy Johns

1) Welcome & Introductions Jennifer Hicks

Jennifer Hicks began the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of March minutes Jennifer Hicks

The CAC reviewed the March minutes. Jennifer Hicks requested to clarify which Jennifer was speaking on the second page of the March minutes. After the edit was noted, the CAC members accepted the March minutes.

3) AUCD update – Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) Jennifer Ulbricht

Jennifer Ulbricht apologized since she has not been able to attend the COLA meetings. She has a new email and has tried to contact AUCD to update her contact information.

4) Unpuzzling Disability Unconference update Bev Harp  
Laura Butler

Bev shared information about the Unpuzzling Disability Unconference on July 23. Bev explained how an unconference event is different than a regular conference. At an unconference,

there are not scheduled speakers. Instead, the group is led by the participants and anyone can present. Though it sounds chaotic, there tends to be a natural structure that develops.

Bev stated that she has had success with unconferences since people typically come prepared with topics. So far 50 people have signed up. There are still about 40 to 50 spots still open. Bev would like to see these spots filled by self-advocates since they are the focus, but allies are welcome as well.

Laura reported that the planning committee is made up of mostly individuals with an identified disability and is intergenerational with a diverse range of ages. Laura also stated that professionals are charged a registration fee but support staff do not have to pay to attend. This is to facilitate attendance of individuals with disabilities and to keep the focus of the event on self-advocates. This unconference is intended to set up a second meeting, which will be a workshop entirely led by self-advocates.

The floor was opened to questions from the CAC members. Jennifer Hicks asked that Bev and Laura email the flyer out to the CAC members. Jennifer Ulbricht stated that CAC members, such as Cathy Jo and Morgan, would probably like to participate in these events.

5) Rural Transportation Toolkit Project update

Jeff White

Jeff identified that transportation is a huge barrier for individuals with disability, especially in rural settings. The project has selected to partner with Breathitt County. The reason that this county was selected because of its small population, the waning industries, a third live below the poverty line, less than half of the population is currently employed, 45% of the residents rely on Medicaid, and 23.8% receive disability payments. That is all to say that there are some needs in this county.

There are currently some independent transportation systems in Breathitt County that charge \$1 a mile. The problem with this is that if you are driving to Lexington to receive treatment at a hospital, then that trip alone will cost around \$172 round-trip.

Jeff discussed that their project began with a community conversation. Unfortunately, only one individual with a disability and their family attended. However, it was encouraging to see the support from the larger faith community and the chamber of commerce. In addition, many professionals and support providers attended. One problem is that none of the suggestions were about including persons with disabilities in the conversation and in the solution.

Some of the best ideas revolved around using local church vehicles in sharing the load of transportation. This may be a viable solution since many of the churches have a wheelchair accessible van and because one of the faith leaders is also the head of the chamber of commerce. Other ideas included: developing a transportation directory for the county and developing a voucher system.

Overall, the next steps are to gather the local community, collaborate with the local community, develop resources necessary to operate the program, publicize the resources, and look for ways

to share the data and implement this program in other counties and replicate it in other rural areas in Kentucky.

After some questions from the CAC members, Jeff explained some of the logistics of the project. He stated that this transportation initiative is jointly operated by Kentucky Works and E3TC. Right now the initiative is funded through HDI's Fund for Excellence through the end of December. Camille Collins asked about issues of liability. Jeff explained that Good Samaritan clauses in most car insurances should cover the drivers.

- 6) HDI Consumer Advocacy Toolkit (CAT) update Jennifer Ulbricht  
- Input and Feedback from the CAC Caroline Gooden

Jennifer Ulbricht presented the revisions of the Consumer Advocacy Toolkit. A full draft of the toolkit is ready. Now they are moving on to receiving feedback on the content of the toolkit. They also have a survey so that they can get the feedback on the toolkit. Jennifer and Caroline Gooden have been working on making the font bigger, changing charts and tables, and making descriptions for all the pictures after receiving feedback from the CAC during the March meeting.

After hearing some questions from CAC members, Jennifer explained that there will be digital and paper versions of this document. She also explained that these will be distributed to different organizations and available through the HDI website for download. After hearing from Bev and Laura, Jennifer also would like to pilot this draft at the Unpuzzling Disability Unconference and at the P&A advisory board meeting. Jennifer's hope is that individuals with disabilities will be able to complete this workbook independently or with a family member.

CAC members provided feedback and asked questions about the survey form. Claudia Johnson provided some feedback about the SMART goal section. Other CAC members provided more feedback on the SMART goal activity in section five. Morgan gave more feedback and said the improvements since last time are a lot better. Jennifer Hicks suggested using a font that does not have serifs. Walt also suggested adding HDI's Those of Us Dislabeled as a resource to the resource list at the end of the toolkit.

- 7) TOP (Transition Opportunities Program) Update Vickey Reilly

Vickey explained that as of July 1<sup>st</sup> the TOP pilot program will end. The reason is because of the merger of the Office for the Blind and Voc Rehab. This merger includes the consolidation of resources. Since there is overlap with TOP and the Community Work Transition Program (CWTP) it has been decided that TOP will end.

Morgan asked about people who are already receiving the services. Vickey explained that those high school students will now receive the supports through the CWTP. There were questions about the qualifications for high schools who are hiring these support/work-transition professionals. These qualifications are stated in the contract between the school and Voc Rehab.

- 8) Agency Updates (P & A, DD Council, DDID  
CCSHN, OVR) Each Agency

**Protection & Advocacy** – Camille Collins reported that Congress passed legislation where they will have new grant monies to hire new employees. These employees will go out to ensure that persons with disabilities around the state are safe from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In a few weeks, Camille will be going to Baltimore to learn more about how the program will be run. Camille also noted that September 25<sup>th</sup> is national voter registration day. P&A will be working to help people with mental and other disabilities getting registered to vote.

**Council on Developmental Disabilities** - Jennifer Hicks stated that soon she will be taking students with and without disabilities to Washington D.C. The Peer Support Network is now available in all school districts and sustainable since the law passed. The voting rights video is being edited and it will be sent out before the next election.

**Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities** - Claudia Johnson stated that they hired a new SCL waiver manager, Elizabeth Kries. They are trying to ensure that open slots are allocated properly since there were no additional slots appropriated in the biennial budget. At the last count, there were 2,499 individuals on the waiting list for the SCL Waiver and 6,285 waiting for the Michelle P. Waiver. Project CHEER is in the process of identifying the first four pilot sites to implement CHEER. Waiver redesign is continuing, the community conversations and town hall meetings have been completed and recommendations were released.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** - Vickey Reilly discussed the merger between the Office of the Blind and Vocational Rehabilitation. There will be a series of meetings to answer questions and hear concerns about the merger. At the federal level, the Office of the Blind and OVR have already merged. The state is just catching up. They have hired a Pre-Employment Transition Services administrator to lighten Vickey's work load that has been increasing since WIOA took effect.

- 10) Elections of new CAC members Jennifer Hicks

The CAC Nomination committee met last week and reviewed the applications to HDI's Consumer Advisory Council. The nominees up for election were Sherece Cole, Vivian Lasley, Donna Littrell, and Joe Cowan. Walt passed out biographical sketches of each of the nominees to the CAC members. The candidates were nominated to replace the current CAC members (Jennifer Ulbricht, Elaine Brown, Prema Rapuri, and Janah Arvin).

Cathy Jo made the motion and Jennifer Mynear seconded the motion to elect all of the nominated candidates. The motion passed unanimously.

- 11) New Business and Announcements Jennifer Hicks

Walt shared information about the Kentucky Special Olympics and the Health Promotion tent held on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Richmond at Eastern Kentucky University.

- 12) Special Recognition Walt Bower

Walt presented framed certificates of appreciation to Stephen Craker, Elaine Brown, and Jennifer Ulbricht for their outstanding service as CAC members.

- 13) Family Mentorship program update Carrie Canady, April Bruce  
Katy Sutton, Stephen Craker  
Wendy Wheeler-Mullins

Walt provided a brief description of the family mentorship program. Then family mentors and students who have completed the family mentorship program shared their experiences with the family mentorship program and answered questions from the CAC members about the family mentorship program.

- 14) Lunch and Further Discussion about CAC All  
Members' Involvement in HDI Projects

**NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, September 10, Coldstream 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM,  
followed by a working lunch.**