

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council  
Coldstream Training Room  
Monday September 9, 2019 9AM – 1 PM**

**In attendance today... CAC Members**

Camille Collins  
Sherece Cole  
Jennifer Hicks  
Walt Bower  
Joe Cowan  
Cathy Lerza (for Claudia Johnson)  
Vivian Lasley  
Kathy Sheppard-Jones  
Jay Tyner-Wilson  
Vickey Reilly  
Raina Ford  
Donna Littrell  
Emily Moseley  
Morgan Crawford  
Lee Gordon

**Guests:** Sonia Withers, Kyle Bowyer, Morgan Lanier

**Presenters:** Katie Wolf Whaley, Carolyn Wheeler, Patti Singleton

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

1) Welcome & Introductions Joe Cowan

Joe Cowan began the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of June Minutes Joe Cowan

The CAC members reviewed the June minutes. Cathy Lerza moved to accept the minutes. Donna Littrell seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

3) AUCD update – Council on Leadership in Sherece Cole  
Advocacy (COLA)

Sherece Cole will be added to the COLA listserv so she will be able to provide a COLA update at our next CAC meeting. Walt will follow up with Jack Brandt about adding Sherece to the COLA listserv.

4) HDI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary update Kathy Sheppard-Jones

Kathy Sheppard-Jones shared that HDI is celebrating the HDI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events with HDI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary spotlights. HDI would like to feature CAC members in our ongoing spotlights as the CAC is a driving force for HDI to help us achieve our mission. The goal is to have 50

spotlights by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition, Kathy provided an exciting update for the HDI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at the University of Kentucky's Gatton Student Center. Kathy stated that several guests are confirmed for the Gala: President Eli Capilouto of the University of Kentucky, Dr. Lisa Cassis, the University of Kentucky's Vice President for Research, Johnny Collett, the Assistant Secretary in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services in the United States Department of Education, and Andy Imperato, the Executive Director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD).

There will be a live band, dance floor, and plated dinner. Scholarships are available if people need assistance. Kathy also shared information about the upcoming HDI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 5K Run, Walk, Stroll on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Coldstream Park, a park in Lexington located on the UK's Coldstream Research campus. There is an option to participate virtually as well.

5) Employment First - Project Spotlight

Katie Wolf Whaley

Katie Wolf Whaley reported that Kentucky is an Employment First state and HDI was charged with overseeing the Employment First council. Katie explained that Employment First is a philosophy that sees employment as the first option. After a person graduates from high school, they will most likely choose one of three options: college, work, or the military. Katie emphasized that this should be the expectation for all persons.

Katie described Employment First as a movement to remove barriers to integrated work. It also recognizes that everyone needs support at times. On May 15, 2018, Governor Bevin signed a declaration making Kentucky an Employment First state. Employment First is currently working on capacity building, provider transformation, and cross agency collaboration. There are currently 85 employment services that contract with Vocational Rehabilitation.

Katie presented the CAC with a question, 'How do we get providers to serve more people thoughtfully?' Katie suggested using a strength-based approach with the goal of competitive, integrated employment. Katie pointed out that everyone benefits from supported employment: people with disabilities, families, communities, taxpayers, and employers.

HDI is a part of the Employment First council. The council has two years to identify the challenges to employment and develop responses and establish goals. Katie emphasized that there needs to be a cultural shift that comes with the idea that everyone has something to offer, even people with disabilities, regardless of the nature of their disability. Kathy Sheppard-Jones reported that Kentucky is putting together a strategic plan for all of employment and HDI is a part of that collaboration.

One CAC member expressed a concern that the input of Kentuckians with disabilities are part of the discussion around employment. Katie commented that the National Core Indicators study and Employment First have not attempted to survey all individuals, but they have looked at other surveys on employment.

Another CAC member asked if Vocational Rehabilitation has received more funding to help with transportation needs. Kathy Sheppard-Jones stated that there needs to be an array of transportation options. Transportation is also an issue for people without disabilities, but it is exacerbated for people with disabilities. The goal of Employment First is that everyone has something to offer that is worthy of pay.

6) ABLE Accounts update

Carolyn Wheeler

Carolyn Wheeler provided a comprehensive overview of the ABLE program. Carolyn reported that Kentucky's ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) plan is called STABLE Kentucky. People with disabilities are now able to save money without affecting their Medicaid or Social Security income. STABLE accounts are similar to a 529 college savings plan (or 529A) and they can work alongside a Special Needs Trust. It can also function as a checking account.

Enrollment in a plan is online and takes about 20 minutes if you already know what your option preferences are prior to enrolling in a plan. There is a \$50 minimum to open the account. There are various investment options: growth, conservative growth, income, and bank safe. Accounts are for adults as well as children.

Carolyn explained that the STABLE credit card works similar to a flex spending account. One can use the STABLE card to pay for qualified expenses. There is an 800 number (1-800-439-1653) to call if you need assistance with opening an ABLE account. About 300 accounts have been opened in Kentucky. Carolyn suggests not opening an account until you are ready to fund it and start saving. The intent is for families to open the account and to save and grow the money to use for long term goals. STABLE accounts are not meant to be an estate planning tool – those would need a separate supplemental needs trust.

7) Election of new CAC members

All

The CAC Nomination committee met last week and reviewed the applications to HDI's Consumer Advisory Council. The committee nominated Skylar Pash Koehler and Carrie Stith-Webster for election to the Consumer Advisory Council.

Walt passed out biographical sketches of each of the nominees to the CAC members. Jennifer Hicks thanked the CAC Nomination committee for their work and made a motion to accept the two nominees. Morgan Crawford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8) Agency Updates (P & A, DD Council, DDID  
OCSHN)

Each Agency

**Protection & Advocacy** – Camille Collins reported that P&A was recently reviewed by the government and they did well. Currently, they are in the process of submitting priorities for the year 2020. That report will be out on October 1. Camille also shared that My Choice Kentucky is educating people about supported decision-making. Camille also reported that they went to court to restore the rights of four people.

**Council on Developmental Disabilities** – Jennifer Hicks reported that two new appointments were made to the Council: one parent and one self-advocate. She also announced that the new Exceptional Family Kentucky magazine is out and there is a new housing project at Mattingly Edge. The project is about finding housing in the community on bus routes and with community resources. She also reported they are working with HDI on a transportation project. Jennifer announced that Partners in Policy is offering an eight-month course for people with developmental disabilities and their families to become better advocates. It meets one Saturday a month for eight months.

**Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities** – Cathy Lerza reported they are currently working on the annual survey of all providers and they are asking what technical assistance they need. The SIS Assessment will be moving from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle. The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) completed studies to show the people's needs are stable for over three years. The reviews are completed every year during off years – one can ask for a review if they have experienced a life change. In the past year, 36 people completed their annual review and one requested a life change review.

**Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs** – Lee Gordon reported that the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs recently had a review that went well. Over the next year, they will be working on a needs assessment that will include surveys and asking about provided services to clinics, as well as family to family services. A CAC member asked if hearing services are the only services provided by the agency. Lee replied that we do provide hearing services to newborns, but he stated that we do more than provide hearing tests. There are 18 to 20 main diagnoses that they provide services for and they serve people from birth through 21.

9) New Business and Announcements

Morgan Crawford asked if people are interested in moving the CAC meeting time to a little later in the morning. One CAC member suggested 10 or 11am. There was consensus that the next CAC meeting on December 2 start at 10:30am.

Patti Singleton announced there are now 100 courses online with a large focus on early care and education. She shared that it is a pilot program and would like feedback from people with disabilities on the registration process. Morgan announced that she gives presentations about her life. If anyone is interested, please let her know.

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

Jennifer Hicks made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Vivian Lasley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, December 2nd, 2019, Coldstream 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM, with a working lunch.