

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting via Zoom
Monday, December 7, 2020 10:30am – 1:30pm**

In attendance today... CAC Members

Vivian Lasley
Skylar Koehler
Morgan Crawford
Cathy Lerza
Jennifer Hicks
Carrie Stith-Webster
Camille Collins
Lee Gordon
Walt Bower
Joe Cowan
Meghan Ackerman
Jay Tyner-Wilson
Emily Moseley

Presenters: Maria Kemplin, Amy Rumrill, Sally Dannenberg

Guest: Megan Russell

1) Welcome & Introductions Vivian Lasley

Vivian Lasley began the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of September Minutes Vivian Lasley

Vivian asked for members to review the September minutes. Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes, and Joe seconded.

3) AUCD update – Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) Walt Bower

Walt shared information about the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) conference that starts today on December 7, 2020. The conference is virtual and takes place on December 7th, 8th, and 9th. The theme for the AUCD conference this year is "Achieving Equity: Leading the Way in the Next Decade." The opening plenary is "What is Equity and What does it Mean for the Disability Community?" The awards ceremony for the conference is on December 8th. The closing plenary, "Engaging with Congress to Achieve Equitable Communities" is an opportunity to learn about the legislative work and priorities of elected disability advocates in Congress. This year, the conference is more accessible and available to more people as no travel is involved for attendees.

4) Transportation Initiative
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Maria Kemplin

Maria Kemplin provided a Transportation Initiative update and an overview of the Transportation Initiative website. The website address for the Transportation Initiative is <https://transportation.hdiuky.org/>. The website is organized by topic and each topic has a video and audio file, as well as the option to download a handout. Each topic has an outline with step-by-step instructions that people can follow to assist them in receiving services. The goal of the website is to include all the information needed so clients can receive services.

Maria highlighted four services: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), Private Auto Providers, Blind Work Expense, and Hart Supported Living Program. If someone is eligible for Medicaid, then they qualify for NEMT. The requirements are a Medicaid card, the trip must be to a Medicaid appointment, and they do not have their own transportation.

As a response to COVID-19, it is possible to hire a Private Auto Provider. This provider is usually known to the individual on Medicaid, but it cannot be someone who resides in the same house. Camille asked if people are taking advantage of this option. Maria responded by saying that many people do not know about this option. Maria offered to walk someone through the steps. Meghan asked if this applies to minors. Maria said there is no age limit for transportation and that folks in First Steps are eligible. Lee asked if the private driver needs to fill out forms. Maria said that the brokers do the documentation.

Blind Work Expense is a program of the Social Security Administration. The program allows a person to deduct expenses so they can get SSI while working. One could add more deductions, such as attendant care, prescriptions, childcare expenses, medical equipment, medical services or testing, equipment needed for a job, phone or cell phone service, internet, guide dogs (including food, treats, veterinary care, etc.). There are people available to help with the paperwork – Maria is also available to help.

The Hart Supported Living Program provides funds for people to live in communities. This program provides funds for a taxi driver, uber, or Lyft. Someone could apply for funds for vehicle modifications; however, it will not provide funds to purchase a vehicle. Every application is rated on a points system – the applications with the most points get funded. There are two types of eligibility: one-time or on-going. Maria provided handouts that were emailed to the CAC members.

5) RETAIN Kentucky project
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Amy Rumrill

Amy Rumrill provided a RETAIN Kentucky project update. The RETAIN (Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network) project provides case management to help people return to the workforce and help them stay off SSDI. The project focuses on non-work-related injuries, and it does not deal with workman's compensation. Lee asked how RETAIN helps people in the workforce and if they are connected to the Office of Vocational

Rehabilitation (OVR). Amy said they make referrals to OVR and OVR sends referrals to RETAIN.

There is a five-question survey to determine eligibility. If a person is deemed eligible, they are assigned a Return-to-Work Coordinator as their case manager. They provide accommodation assessments utilizing the social determinants of health, helping people to pay their bills and link them to resources. The Return-to-Work Specialists follow the same hierarchy as workman's compensation. They try to get people back into the same job with the same employer. Lee asked if the Return-to-Work Specialists try to match compensation. Amy said they try to match the salary, but they will refer to OVR for training if that is not possible. Since June 2019, they have served 145 participants.

- 6) Conversation on Recruiting Additional CAC Members with Disabilities All

The CAC had a lively and engaging discussion involving recruitment additional CAC members with disabilities. One member suggested recruiting additional members through word of mouth. Vivian stated that she shares CAC information with her employees and thinks about children she has worked with in the past. She also called a parent who may be interested in joining the CAC.

Joe mentioned that he shares the information from the CAC with his church members. Morgan suggested using Facebook to recruit additional members. Jay is involved with Parks and Recreation, McLeod's Coffee House, and Southland Christian Church and can recruit additional members through interaction with these community organizations. Cathy suggested sending information to providers about the CAC.

Meghan suggested reaching out to the Children's Alliance, Independent Living Programs, Tristate Trauma Network, Redwood, and the Kidz Club. Meghan also suggested reaching out to universities around Kentucky to reach young adults with disabilities. Skylar suggested utilizing a 15-minute podcast at LM Communications with this podcast serving as a platform to discuss disability issues. Jen Hicks offered to send the application out to her listserv. Emily suggested reaching out to the KATS Network and Independence Place.

- 7) Sign Language for Early Childhood Educators, Children's Librarians, and Families of Young Children Sally Dannenberg
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Sally Dannenberg provided an update on the Sign Language for Early Childhood Educators, Children's Librarians, and Families of Young Children project. Sally shared a chart that shows the importance of early language development. They created courses to teach sign language to early childhood educators to communicate with small children and build language capacity. They also have handouts and provide resources for families. Children pick up signs very quickly and this project decreases frustration for kids who may have issues communicating.

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

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities - Cathy Lerza reported the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities (BHDID) is finalizing the goals for 2021. The goals are: 1. Mitigate adverse behavioral health outcomes; 2. Continue to develop and expand the recovery-oriented system of care to address the opioid crisis and other substance use disorders; 3. Support and promote the behavioral health and wellness of children and families involved with or at risk of involvement with child welfare; 4. Advance efficient/effective operations of the Department's inpatient and residential facilities; 5. Assure safe and adequate system of care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cathy also reported that they are working diligently to facilitate keeping people safe and to continue to receive services. They have weekly zoom meetings with providers to share successes. During the meetings, the state guidance related to COVID is also reviewed. The annual Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) conference is being done in a virtual platform for the first year. Registration is closed, but the slides of the presentations are available at this link. <http://www.advancingstates.org/2020-hcbs-conference-resources>

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs - Lee Gordon reported that they are continuing to provide services to clinics and connecting parents to the Family to Family Health Information Center. It is helpful for new parents to connect with seasoned parents who know about resources and issues.

- 9) Election of New CAC Vice-Chair, Chair, and Setting of New Meeting Dates

Vivian asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Vivian asked Joe if he would be interested. Meghan nominated herself as well. The vote to determine the Vice-Chair will be held by email. Vivian made a motion to nominate Morgan to Chair of the CAC. Cathy seconded. Morgan stated she wanted to think about it and the motion was tabled. The CAC meeting dates for 2021 are March 1st, June 7th, September 13th, and December 6th.

- 10) New Business and Announcements Vivian Lasley

Walt announced that *You Can Do So Many Things* won an award. *You Can Do So Many Things* received a 2020 WINNIE award from the Equus Film and Arts Festival in November. *You Can Do So Many Things* is a book for children focusing on career exploration and diversity in Kentucky. The book was written by Kathy Sheppard-Jones, illustrated by Brittany Granville, and edited by Caroline Gooden. Lee sent the book out to his staff and they gave great feedback.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Meghan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, March 1, 2021 at 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM.