

HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting in Zoom
Monday September 13, 2021 10:30AM – 1:30PM

In attendance today... CAC Members

Morgan Crawford
Meghan Ackerman
Vivian Lasley
Camille Collins
Cathy Lerza
Julie Pfeiffer
Jay Tyner-Wilson
Joe Cowan
Lee Gordon
Walt Bower
Sherece Cole
Karen Lane

Presenters: Jason Jones, Erin Fitzgerald, Caroline Gooden, Kate Dean

Guests: Megan Russell

1) Welcome & Introductions Morgan Crawford

Morgan Crawford opened the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of June minutes Morgan Crawford

Morgan asked for members to review the June minutes. Cathy made a motion to approve the minutes, and Morgan seconded.

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

Sherece provided an overview of the Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA). The purpose of COLA is to enhance the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) by fostering current and new leaders with lived experience of disability, including their family members, to promote leadership in their programs and communities. COLA members include individuals with disabilities and family members of individuals with disabilities from each network member across the

AUCD network. Sherece reported that COLA is currently looking for new members. Additionally, Sherece mentioned that the AUCD annual conference will be held virtually on November 15th – 17th, 2021 from 3:30 – 5:00pm EST.

- 4) ACL/Reeve Resiliency project Jason Jones
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Jason Jones introduced the ACL/Reeve Resiliency project. The Recharging Resiliency Together project is a series of online opportunities for people with paralysis. Originally, the project included a mini retreat that was open solely to individuals with paralysis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project transitioned to offering one online session per month and opened their target audience to include caregivers and stakeholders.

Jason played a video featuring Mark Bogosian, Director, Quality of Life Grants Program, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. Mark stated that social isolation has had the number one negative impact on the lives of people living with disabilities. The purpose of the Recharging Resiliency grant is to address social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic and to enhance connectedness among people living with paralysis and their communities.

A schedule of virtual workshops presented by the Recharging Resiliency Together project was provided. The next workshop is September 15th from 1:00 – 2:30pm EST and will focus on universal design and assistive technology. Additional workshops this year include October 13th – Community living and mental wellness, November 10th – Employment, and December 8th – Communication. Joe reported that he participated in the most recent workshop. Morgan asked about conferences on service animals and Jason mentioned the Southeast ADA Center as a resource. Jason closed his presentation by communicating his appreciation for the individuals involved in the CAC council.

- 5) Kentucky Supported Higher Education Project (KSHEP) update Erin Fitzgerald
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Erin Fitzgerald presented updates on the Kentucky Supported Higher Education Project (KSHEP). The purpose of KSHEP is to increase higher education options, access, and success for Kentucky students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. KSHEP is a network of institutions of higher education across the state of Kentucky offering inclusive higher education programs for students with

disabilities and is supported by the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) project at HDI.

The number of students supported in KSHEP programs has grown. The University of Kentucky CTP is currently supporting one student in a pilot study with an official program launch planned for the upcoming semesters. Murray State University (MSU), Northern Kentucky University (NKU), and Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) also provide support for students through their CTP programs. NKU and BCTC have started a dual enrollment initiative for high school students.

Erin asked for input and feedback from CAC members on how to increase access and opportunities. Meghan asked about requirements to become a mentor and Erin provided a description of requirements. Meghan also shared a potential connection, Aetna SKY. Aetna SKY is an insurance provider for children in foster care in Kentucky. Vivian asked about the age in which students are introduced to the program. Morgan asked about contact information for KSHEP at UK. Erin closed her presentation by showing her appreciation for being able to present today.

- 6) LEND update Caroline Gooden
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Caroline provided an update on the Kentucky Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) grant. The purpose of the LEND grant is to implement an interdisciplinary training program across several state universities and to apply lessons learned about best practices to improve services and outcomes for persons with ASD and related neurological disabilities. LEND consists of nine trainees from diverse disciplines and is supported by a leadership team and faculty with a wide range of expertise. LEND is a 12-month program that requires participation in lecture/discussion courses, practicum courses, and over 300 hours of training. Meghan suggested adding more information about faculty background on the website and Caroline concurred.

- 7) Child Care Aware (CCA) update Kate Dean
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Kate Dean provided a Child Care Aware (CCA) update and began by stating the CCA is a statewide network of childcare referral services and resources. The focus of CCA is two-fold, supporting access to safe, affordable, quality childcare for families and providing professional development for childcare providers and

trainers. Kate shared several downloadable resources from the website, including a childcare provider checklist, which can help parents make an informed decision. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) was also discussed. CCAP provides financial assistance for childcare and is available to families who meet the income and work requirements. Kate then discussed several resources and services provided by CCA including the Kynect benefits portal, Kentucky All Stars, and Learn the Signs Act Early.

Kate asked for feedback from CAC members on how to improve collaboration, access, and recruitment. Meghan shared a personal story about barriers to finding childcare and Morgan suggested an outside resource. Lee suggested paying a higher rate to childcare agencies who care for children with special healthcare needs to improve options. Kate reported that these variations in rates currently exist. Walt asked a question about education requirements and credentialed trainer levels and Kate shared that there is a matrix to help determine levels. Kate closed her presentation by communicating her appreciation for the members of the CAC.

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

DD Council – Jennifer Hicks sent an update, which Walt read. The full Council met via Zoom last month. Committees and work teams have appointed new chairs. Recently seven new members were appointed by the Governor, including Regina Watts, Micah Peace, Scott Collins, Nick Carpenter, Casey Allen, Aisha Omar and Mark Leach. The Council is working toward designing a scholarship award named after former member and Chair, Chastity Ross. This scholarship will pay for a self-advocate to attend a conference that helps them become better advocates. The next DD Council magazine will be out in January and will be both digital and physically printed. The feds have released the new program that will allow staff to enter their annual reports for 2020. These are due at the end of the year. The next DD Council meeting will be in November.

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Cathy Lerza discussed DDID's participation in National Core Indicators (NCI). Cathy shared new NCI data from the website. The NCI quality improvement committee met recently to review the newest data and is in the process of forming a set of improvement recommendations. The Support for Community Living (SCL) and Michelle P waiver providers are to use the survey results and the committee recommendations in their quality

improvement plans. The recommendations will involve increasing employment, health and wellness, relationships and community inclusion, and in decreasing psychotropic medications. One CAC member commented that it was interesting to see the new NCI data. Another CAC member asked about DDID coordinating to reduce prescribing of psychotropic medications and collaborating with providers from other states. Cathy responded that a set of questions are available for providers and individuals to facilitate conversations.

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs – Lee Gordon reported in-person clinics have resumed in eleven offices. However, virtual telehealth clinics continue to be available to talk with medical providers through Zoom. Lee discussed the Family-to-Family Health Information Center which connects families with children with special healthcare needs to seasoned parents that have experience navigating healthcare systems and resources. All centers are federally funded and staffed by parents of children with special healthcare needs. Lee mentioned Sondra Gilbert, who works in Owensboro, as a resource. Walt asked about the ability to connect parents locally in other regions of the state. Lee responded that Sondra could help make connections between parents, but they may not be in the same geographical area.

9) New Business and Announcements

Morgan Crawford

Walt announced the upcoming HDI Fall Seminar Series titled “The Intersection of Universal Design and Landscape Architecture: Creating Inclusive and Engaging Outdoor Spaces” on September 24th from 1:00 – 3:00pm. Walt provided the registration link in the chat box. The seminar is free to participate and open to anyone who is interested. Walt also noted two additional HDI Seminars that will be occurring this fall; “Impact of COVID-19: Considerations for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Across Major Life Domains” on October 22nd and “Blended Practices for Teaching Young Children in Inclusive Settings” on November 19th. Early Care and Education clock hours have been approved for the November seminar. Walt asked for CAC members to share this information with anyone who may be interested.

Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Joe seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, December 6, 2021 at 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM