

HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting via Zoom
Monday March 7, 2022 10:30AM – 1:30PM

In attendance today... CAC Members

Jonathan White
Vivian Lasley
Amanda Vance
Meghan Ackerman
Camille Collins
Cathy Lerza
Julie Pfeiffer
Jay Tyner-Wilson
Joe Cowan
Lee Gordon
Walt Bower
Skylar Koehler
Karen Lane

Presenters: Maryfrances Gross, Harold Kleinert, Kristen Dahl, Caroline Gooden

1) Welcome & Introductions Joe Cowan

Joe Cowan opened the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of December minutes Joe Cowan

Joe asked for members to review the December minutes. Joe made a motion to approve the minutes as read, and Karen seconded.

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

Walt read an update for the Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) provided by Sherece Cole. At the last COLA meeting, they discussed patient-centered outcomes and why it is important to include people with disabilities in research. The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) was authorized by congress in 2010 and focuses on how patient-centered research may reduce

ableism. Outcomes discussed include ensuring voices of people with disabilities are heard and facilitating a better understanding of how disability impacts health.

- 4) HDI Driver Rehabilitation Program Maryfrances Gross
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Maryfrances Gross introduced the HDI Driver Rehabilitation program and provided a short history on driver rehabilitation in the state of Kentucky, including the state statutes that necessitate a driver rehabilitation program. Driver rehabilitation services are typically performed by allied health professionals and driver educators, many of which are Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (CDRS).

The HDI Driver Rehabilitation program services consumers for Vocational Rehabilitation. HDI's vision for the driving program is to improve accessibility across the state and to develop partnerships with community stakeholders for pre-driving skills training. Lee asked about the youth training program and Maryfrances and Jonathan White discussed the Carl D. Perkins Center as a resource. Karen asked about resources for drivers' rehabilitation in Louisville and Walt asked about resources for persons in western Kentucky. Maryfrances suggested consumers in these areas go through Vocational Rehabilitation first and discussed VR eligibility requirements and processes.

Lee asked about the process of taking the driving test. Maryfrances reported that new drivers must take the driving test through the DMV. However, if the individual was a driver prior to injury, the person must go through a medical review process. Walt asked about mobility vendors such as Superior Mobility. Mobility vendors will often require a prescription from a CDRS before installing adaptive equipment in a vehicle, per Maryfrances.

- 5) Consumer Advisory Council By-laws Update Harold Kleinert
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Harold Kleinert discussed updating the Consumer Advisory Council by-laws. The CAC by-laws were last updated in 2004. Dr. Kleinert mentioned that these updates occurred before the strength of the self-advocacy movement in which the voice of self-advocates has been more prioritized both nationally and at HDI. The CAC has the right to revise its own by-laws.

Currently, the majority of CAC members must be self-advocates and family members. CAC members also include key members of HDI, a student member, and directors of key state agencies. Harold stated the purpose of the CAC is to help guide the development of the work plan of HDI and to promote dialogue between family, self-advocates, and state agencies. The CAC members reviewed the current by-laws and discussed possible updates. Harold discussed creating a workgroup to update the by-laws with the suggested updates to be presented at the next meeting.

- 6) MHDD National Training Center and Merge Project
-Input and feedback from CAC members
Kristen Dahl

Kristen Dahl provided an update on the Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (MHDD) National Training Center. The MHDD initiative at HDI has been renamed Merge. Merge is HDI's commitment to use plain, clear, concise language. Merge is a five-year initiative to improve services for Kentuckians with co-occurring mental health, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Kristen mentioned that there has been a rise in mental health concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, people with disabilities are less likely to receive mental health services. MERGE services are person-centered and culturally relevant. Kristen asked for CAC members who would like to share their story to contact her.

- 7) Project SCOPE update
-Input and feedback from CAC members
Caroline Gooden

Caroline Gooden provided an update on Project SCOPE. SCOPE stands for Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic. The purpose of Project SCOPE is to study the needs of children born substance exposed and their families. There are currently 12 sites funded which focus on high-risk states and Kentucky is considered a high-risk state for opioid use. Each session starts with a brief lecture by an expert on the topic followed by a case study provided from participants. Participants then break into small groups for discussion on strategies. Sessions are held every other Thursday at 4pm EST and Caroline invited all to attend.

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

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Cathy Lerza shared that DDID is currently working with Medicaid on the renewal of the Supports for Community Living (SCL) waiver. When the proposal goes out for public comment, Cathy will provide a link to the council for input. Once the SCL waiver renewal is ready to submit to CMS, DDID will begin work on the Michelle P waiver renewal.

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs – Lee Gordon reported that OCSHCN has a new Medical Director, Bethany Morgan, who is a pediatric neurologist from Norton Healthcare. The OCSHCN Youth Advisory Council is currently looking for new members. Persons with a special healthcare need who are 14 to 24 years old are eligible to apply. The Youth Advisory Council meets quarterly via Zoom. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council is to present items to members about programs occurring in OCSHCN and to ask for input on topics that members would like to hear about.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Jonathan White reported that OVR counselors continue to be back in the office. OVR is also able to provide virtual services. It is up to the individual consumer how they would like to participate in their services. Jonathon also reported that the Carl D. Perkins Center has re-opened to a limited number of onsite students for training programs with hopes to be completely re-opened to in-person trainings soon. Currently, OVR is focusing on pre-employment transition services for students with disabilities.

9) New Business and Announcements

Joe Cowan

Walt reported on the HDI Seminar Series. The second and third spring seminars will occur on Friday, March 25st and Friday, April 8th. Both seminars will happen virtually at 1pm EST. Walt also reported that two CAC members, Morgan Crawford and Jay-Tyner Wilson, have served their consecutive three-year terms. Walt highlighted their outstanding service and leadership as CAC members. Appreciation for their service was shown by several CAC members.

Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Amanda seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday June 6, 2022 at 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM