

HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting in Zoom
Monday December 4, 2023 10:30AM – 1:30PM

In attendance today... CAC Members

Skylar Koehler	Bobby Begley
Jake Cruz	Vivian Lasley
Walt Bower	Kathy Sheppard-Jones
Cathy Lerza	Meghan Ackerman
Joe Cowan	Kristen Beach
Julie Pfeiffer	Karen Ritchie
Joshua Seigle	

Presenters: Laura Butler, Johnny Collett, Sally Dannenberg, Joanne Rojas, Patti Logsdon, Maria Kemplin

1) Welcome & Introductions Jake Cruz

Jake opened the meeting. All members introduced themselves. Walt thanked Jonathan White for his service to the CAC and welcomed Kristen Beach as the new representative for OVR.

2) Review and Approval of September Minutes Jake Cruz

Jake asked for members to review the September minutes. Bobby made a motion to approve the minutes, and Joe seconded. September meeting minutes were approved.

3) Update from the HDI Executive Director Kathy Sheppard-Jones

Kathy provided an HDI update. HDI's annual report for 2023 should be finalized soon and will be made available to CAC members when it is complete. In 2023, HDI had a budget of more than 33 million and managed 70 external funded projects and initiatives. The second CAC meeting for 2024 may be moved from June to May 24. The meeting will bring the members of the Developmental Disabilities Network of Kentucky together in one space. Kathy reported that the CAC is critical to the work at HDI. The CAC helps review ideas and proposals, assists in reaching out to the community, and evaluates HDI efforts. Kathy then

discussed options for potential changes to the name of the advisory council. CAC members discussed and agreed to keep the current name.

- 4) AUCD update – Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) Vivian Lasley

Vivian provided an update on COLA. Vivian’s membership request to COLA has been approved. Vivian is the representative for Kentucky to COLA, but has been unable to attend a COLA meeting.

- 5) Election of New CAC members All members

Walt opened the discussion on electing new CAC members. Bithinny McKee was nominated as a family member of a person with a disability. Katie Looney was nominated as a person with a disability. Joe made a motion to accept the nomination for Bithinny and was seconded by Vivian. Meghan made a motion to accept Katie’s nomination, and Joe seconded. Bithinny and Katie were elected as new members of the CAC.

- 6) National Core Indicators project update Laura Butler
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Laura provided an update on the National Core Indicators project. NCI is comprised of three surveys: an in-person survey of adults receiving Medicaid waiver services, a survey of family members, and a survey of provider agencies. NCI data is used for grant proposals, manuscripts, and to support HDI projects. Laura discussed recommendations for employment, health and wellness, relationships and community inclusion, medication, and rights and respect that emerged from the most recent NCI results.

- 7) Engaging the CAC by-laws update Johnny Collett
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Johnny discussed the proposed revisions to the CAC by-laws. Johnny reviewed sections of the by-laws and discussed his recommended edits. CAC members provided comments, suggestions, and further edits to the by-laws.

- 8) Mind in the Making training project Sally Dannenberg
-Input and feedback from CAC members Joanne Rojas

Sally and Joanne provided an introduction to the Mind in the Making training project. The project was funded by HDI's Fund for Excellence. Mind in the Making is a training program focusing on the development of executive function skills, which are attention-regulating skills. The training focuses on seven executive function life skills: focus and self-control, perspective taking, communicating, making connections, critical thinking, taking on challenges, self-directed and engaged learning. The three groups that will participate in the training program are families of children with special needs, families in which a grandparent or other family member is raising a child as a result of substance exposure, and Spanish-speaking families in Lexington.

- 9) Expanding Social Networks of Adults with Autism project Patti Logsdon
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Patti introduced the Expanding Social Networks of Adults with Autism project. This project is funded by HDI's Fund for Excellence. Patti reported that friendships and relationships with peers often remain elusive for Autistic students. A dearth of friendships in school can carry over into adulthood. The Expanding Social Networks for Adults with Autism project will use a blended approach from person-centered planning, circle of friends, and peer networks to improve friendships and relationships for Autistic adults.

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

Developmental Disabilities Council- Jake provided an agency update for the DD Council. The DD Council will be starting KY Partner in Policy making classes again soon. The Executive Director recently attended a conference with other DD council directors to network and discuss best practices. At the Council meeting last month, discussions were had on bringing organizations together. The DD Council is always looking for new members. The application to become a member is on the website.

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Cathy provided an update for DDID. DDID has submitted waivers for renewal to CMS. Nationally, there is a worker shortage for helping people with disabilities. DDID will participate in NCI to help mitigate this worker shortage.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Kristen provided an update for OVR. Kristen is an Assistant Director of Field Services for OVR. The mission of OVR is

to empower Kentuckians with disabilities to maximize independence and economic security through competitive, integrated employment. OVR is working on a state plan, which will be presented early in 2024. OVR is also preparing for a statewide conference which will happen in May 2024.

- 11) Election of Chair and Vice-chair All
Setting of 2024 Meeting Dates

Per the CAC by-laws, the Vice-chair becomes the Chair. As Vice-chair, Jake will become Chair for 2024. Jake nominated Joshua for Vice-chair. Joshua accepted the nomination. Bobby made a motion to elect Jake as Chair and Joshua as Vice-chair of the CAC for 2024. Skylar seconded the motion. The motion passed. Walt announced the CAC meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year will be held on March 4, May 24, September 9, and December 2.

- 12) Transportation and the Micro Transit Service update Maria Kemplin
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Maria provided an update for the Transportation and Micro Transit Service update. BUILD found that transportation is one of the greatest barriers to individuals with disabilities in our community. As a result, a micro transit system has been proposed for the city of Lexington. Micro transit runs like a taxi service. Through the use of accessible small vans, a micro transit system provides same day door to door service. BUILD is seeking public input on the proposal at a meeting on April 30, 2024.

- 13) New Business and Announcements Jake Cruz

Walt announced that Kathy Sheppard-Jones received the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest WINNIE award for Children’s educational literature for her book “You Can Do So Many Things, Too!” Walt also announced a HDI seminar that will happen this Friday, December 8th, entitled “Leadership in our Backyard: The History and Power of Advocacy in our State” and included the registration link in the chat.

Bobby made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Joe seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:48 pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, March 4, 2024, at 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM