

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

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

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

**Guest:** Paige Clemmons

**Presenters:** Phillip Rumrill, Johnny Collett

**Technical and other assistance:** provided by Maurice Dawson

1) Welcome & Introductions Vivian Lasley

Vivian Lasley began the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review & Approval of March Minutes Vivian Lasley

The CAC members reviewed the March minutes. Jennifer Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes, and Joe Cowan seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were accepted.

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

Sherece Cole attended the COLA meeting on May 14, 2020. Sherece reported COLA is seeking new members. At this meeting, the role of the COLA in the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) was discussed. The goals of the COLA were defined as:

- Supporting existing leaders
- Develop new leaders
- Identify needs and opportunities
- Be the voice of unheard people with disabilities
- Provide peer support
- Increase community connections

- Influence public policy

4) HDI work in COVID-19 update

Camille Collins

Camille Collins shared that HDI and P&A are asking people with disabilities to complete a survey about their experiences with COVID-19. They plan to use the information gathered to advocate for people with disabilities now as well as to inform the future. They are asking for self-advocates to help create a thirty second PSA to help other people with disabilities to complete the survey. If you want to participate in the survey, email Camille or Walt.

Protection & Advocacy and HDI worked after the emergence of the pandemic to create the following information sheets to help people with disabilities during COVID-19: “In the event of hospitalization” informational sheet., “Know your rights during a pandemic” informational sheet, Voting informational sheet, and NTI informational sheet.

One CAC member asked if there has been anyone in the hospital who had to request assistance. Individuals have called P&A when assistance has been denied. There have been about five cases and each one was resolved successfully. P&A is advocating systemically to help with people with assistance with activities of daily living, asking hospitals to look at their policies to make sure they are complying with the ADA.

5) HDI Graduate and Undergraduate Certificate Program

Phillip Rumrill

Phillip Rumrill provided an update on the HDI Certificate programs. HDI is recruiting participants for the Undergraduate Certificate in Universal Design for the fall semester and is seeking feedback. The Undergraduate Certificate in Universal Design is a combination of didactic courses, field-based components, and one elective. The students come from programs such as interior design, computer science, education, among others. Students take the certificate courses in addition to the courses specific to their program.

The ideal of universal design is to make society as accessible as possible so that accommodations are no longer needed. A video describing the undergraduate certificate was shown. One CAC member described the undergraduate certificate as exciting. Another CAC member asked the number of credit hours needed to complete the undergraduate certificate and for information about the practicum courses. A listing of the sequence of courses and credit hours to complete the undergraduate certificate was described.

HDI offers a Graduate Certificate in Developmental Disabilities. Students, from a wide variety of programs in graduate school, focus on the needs and concerns of people with disabilities and their families. The certificate has a strong lifespan focus and is a mix of didactics and practicum experiences. The program is 10 or 11 credit hours, depending on the elective course taken for the graduate certificate. A video describing the Graduate Certificate was shown. Walt Bower provided an overview of the practicum experience and the family mentorship program within the graduate certificate.

The Graduate Certificate program offers hands on experience, as it blends formal academic training with real world experience to make an impact on people's lives. One CAC member commented that the graduate certificate is very impressive. Another CAC member stated that is awesome that there are graduate and undergraduate options. A CAC member asked if HDI would consider having a one-day training or conference for employers and employees about the various aspects of universal design and how to make places more accessible for employees with disabilities.

6) HDI Supported Higher Education Project (SHEP) update Johnny Collett

Johnny Collett shared that SHEP is increasing higher education access and success for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Transition and Post-Secondary Programs (TPSP) have over 90 programs across 31 states. It has served about 3400 students over the past ten years. In Kentucky, only 17% of students with disabilities are enrolled in college or university, and only 7% of students with IDD are enrolled in college or university.

A 2018 focus group found that the greatest barriers to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in higher education are lack of funding, lack of knowledge, information, communication, and lack of programs. In the Kentucky General Assembly 2020 regular session, the state/executive branch budgeted \$500K for HDI SHEP. This provides an incredible opportunity to reinvigorate focus.

The SHEP Statewide Technical Assistance Center at HDI provides direct support to Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to establish post-secondary programs that advance the academic success and social inclusion for students with IDD. The work of the statewide Technical Assistance (TA) center includes: supporting up to 20 students and distributing funds to IHE partners; provide customized technical assistance to current Comprehensive Transition Programs (CTPs); encourage establishment of new CTPs; offered individualized support to students and families; increase knowledge of students, families, and agencies; strengthen collaborations with TPSID (Transition Programs for Students with ID).

There are two programs (Northern Kentucky and Murray State) in the state that are recognized as CTPs. Bluegrass Community & Technical College (BCTC) is eager to reinvigorate their CTP. There is particular emphasis on the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS). HDI is developing a proposal for a TPSID (Transition Programs for Students with ID) funding. There are 25 awards available with a range of \$100K-500K, with at least 25% of a matching requirement.

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

**Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities** - Cathy Lerza reported that providers who receive funding to provide services to Medicaid waiver participants or through state general funds are required to submit a completed critical incident report to DDID whenever there is an incident that is serious in nature and poses immediate risk to health, safety, or welfare. DDID reviews critical incidents and follow up with technical

assistance and training as needed. They also track and trend incidents. Currently, they are also comparing incidents they are receiving now with the frequency of each type of incidents we received before the COVID-19 pandemic. There are fewer incidents being submitted now than before the pandemic. In particular, there are fewer incidents resulting from aggression and other negative emotions. There are conversations with day training providers to see how services can be changed when day training centers can re-open.

**Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs** - Lee Gordon reported Ivy Alexander is the new executive director of the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs. Due to coronavirus, most employees are working from home. OCSHN is offering virtual clinics where a patient can meet with a physician through video conferencing.

**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** - Jonathan White reported most OVR employees are continuing to telework with nearly all staff working from home. OVR is still taking applications and providing services. When the stay at home orders were first implemented, there were no in person services offered but now they are going again. Please let Jonathan know if people are saying that they are not receiving services. In March, half of the OVR counseling staff moved to unemployment claims, but most staff should be back by the end of the month. The Assistive Technology conference begins June 2. The Assistive Technology conference is online and free to participants. Participants will need to register for the conference and then enroll in the individual sessions.

9) Election of New CAC Members All Members

The CAC Nomination committee met last week and nominated Meghan Ackerman for election to the Consumer Advisory Council. Walt shared a biographical sketch of the nominee with the CAC members. Joe Cowan made a motion to elect Meghan Ackerman to the CAC, and Cathy Lerza seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10) New Business and Announcements Vivian Lasley

Carrie Stith-Webster announced the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC), which provides preemployment transition services to students aged 14-21, is providing virtual events to students this month. They are having speakers in thirty-minute sessions provide talks to students on a virtual platform. While the talks are geared towards students, anyone is welcome to participate.

The next CAC meeting is Monday, September 14, 2020. Skylar Koehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joe Cowan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm.