

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting in Zoom
Monday March 4, 2024 10:30AM – 1:30PM**

In attendance today... CAC Members

Jake Cruz	Bithinny McKee
Joe Cowan	Kathy Sheppard-Jones
Julie Pfeiffer	Rachel Womack
Joshua Seigle	Camille Collins
Bobby Begley	Walt Bower
Vivian Lasley	Katie Looney
Kristen Beach	Cathy Lerza

Presenters: Teresa Belluscio, Johnny Collett, Caroline Gooden, Kristen Dahl

1) Welcome & Introductions Jake Cruz

Jake opened the meeting at 10:30am. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of December Minutes Jake Cruz

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

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

Vivian provided an update on COLA. Vivian attended her first COLA meeting in February. COLA has developed a priority list for the Marriage Penalty and Leadership project. A bill related to marriage equality advocacy will be taken to Washington D.C. in September to address concerns about the loss of disability-related funding following marriage. Vivian discussed the impact that COLA has nationwide in supporting and advocating for bills. Vivian also discussed the reauthorization of the Autism Cares Act, which will occur this year. There has been a 300% increase in children with Autism since the Autism Cares Act was first authorized in 2006. April is Autism Acceptance month.

- 4) Election of New CAC members All members

Walt opened the discussion on electing new CAC members. Rudy Kellett was nominated as a family member of a person with a disability. Robin Osborne was also nominated as a family member of a person with a disability. Andrea Strassburg was nominated as a person with a disability. Vivian made a motion to accept these three nominations for new members of the CAC. The motion was seconded by Kristen. Rudy, Robin, and Andrea were elected as new members of the CAC.

- 5) Olmstead Planning update Kathy Sheppard-Jones
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Kathy provided an update on the Olmstead planning. NIH has now designated people with disabilities as a population that experiences health disparities which allows for more NIH funding to be allocated for researching healthcare for people with disabilities. As a result of this designation, HDI staff have begun applying for new NIH grants. Also, new connections are being made between HDI researchers and other healthcare researchers. HDI has begun working with the Cabinet of Health and Family Services to devise a state team to gather information from people who receive services and providers who ensure high quality community-based services. The evaluation unit at HDI will also develop surveys, focus groups, provide forums, and put together recommendations as part of the new iteration of the Olmstead Plan for Kentucky. Transportation, education, employment, housing, health, and justice system involvement are the six focus areas of the Olmstead planning. The next CAC meeting will be an in-person joint meeting in Frankfort on May 24th. Kathy has been working on a survey for evaluation of the Consumer Advisory Council. Kathy opened the floor to suggestions for any particular items that CAC members would like to see on the survey.

- 6) HDI's Summer Leadership Experience Camp update Teresa Belluscio
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Teresa provided an update on HDI's Summer Leadership Experience Camp. The 2024 Summer Leadership Experience Camp will be July 16-20th on UK's campus. The camp is offered as both an in-person and virtual camp. Campers are high school students in KY with disabilities who are upper class students and are thinking about their next educational steps when they leave high school. The focus of the camp is self-advocacy, self-determination, and building leadership skills.

Camp is paid for in full by Vocational Rehabilitation; however, there is a \$50 application fee.

- 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 each section of the by-laws and discussed his recommended edits. CAC members provided comments, suggestions, and further edits to the by-laws.

- 8) Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Training for Caroline Gooden
for Interdisciplinary Professionals (NASTIPS) project
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Caroline introduced the NASTIPS project which is an HDI Fund for Excellence project. NASTIPS consists of a team of healthcare providers across Kentucky who work with women with substance use disorder (SUD) and their children. The team will meet at least four times during the 2023-2024 year to develop a plan for proposals to serve the target population. The NASTIPS project has already developed a proposal to create innovative services in rural Southeastern Kentucky. The current direction of the team is to determine gaps in services for persons with SUD and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome across Kentucky.

- 9) Inclusive Strategies for Students and Family Kristen Dahl
Engagement project
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Kristen introduced the Inclusive Strategies for Students and Family Engagement project. Kristen discussed the importance of being trauma-informed and providing trauma-informed practices as 1 in 5 students in Kentucky are dealing with a mental health concern. Creating environments that support health and well-being is trauma informed care. Universally designed trauma informed spaces allow for self-regulation, self-assessment, and reflection.

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

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Cathy provided an update for DDID. Crystal Adams has been named Director of DDID. The department is finalizing their Strategic Plan. DMS anticipates that May 1st will be the effective date for renewal of SCL and Michelle P waivers.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Kristen provided an update for OVR. OVR served 45,277 individuals with disabilities and had 11,521 new applications in 2023. OVR also exited 4,626 people in competitive employment with an average hourly pay of \$23.13 and 34 hours worked per week. OVR has returned to pre COVID levels and is close to being fully staffed. OVR was awarded another NEON grant to provide technical assistance related to the priorities of the Employment Council. A statewide training for all agency staff will take place in May. OVR is also completing their Strategic Plan.

11) New Business and Announcements

Joshua Seigle

Walt announced an upcoming seminar titled, "Exploring Early Childhood: Early Supports to Build a Strong Foundation" which is March 22nd at 1pm. Walt shared the registration link with CAC members.

Joshua made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Bobby seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Friday, May 24th, 2024, at 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM