

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting in Zoom
Monday September 9, 2024, 10:30AM – 1:30PM**

In attendance today... CAC Members

Katie Looney
Jake Cruz
Kristen Beach
Bithinny McKee
Joshua Seigle
Robin Osborne

Skylar Pash
Bobby Begley
Walt Bower
Brie Alsip
Cathy Lerza
Sarah Glenn Insko

Presenters: Erin Fitzgerald, Elizabeth Kries, Johnny Collett, Jacqui Kearns, Mykal Leslie, Becky Barnes

- 1) Welcome & Introductions Jake Cruz

Jake opened the meeting and all members introduced themselves.

- 2) AUCD update – Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) Jake Cruz

Walt Bower presented an opportunity for a Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) member to serve as the Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) representative. He described COLA is an organization that enhances the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) by fostering leaders with lived experiences of disabilities. It is made up of individuals with disabilities and their family members from each AUCD network member. The COLA representative would report back from COLA to the Consumer Advisory Council. Jake shared that the floor is open for nominations. Joshua Seigle was nominated. Motion made by Jake. Kristen seconded. Joshua was voted as the COLA representative.

- 3) Graphic Medicine project Erin Fitzgerald
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Erin presented on the Graphic Medicine Project. Erin explained that graphic medicine is a field that explores and supports the interaction between comics and the discourse of healthcare. Graphic medicine is also a movement that seeks to

amplify the voices and perspective of people with lived experience in medicine, disability, care, and caregiving, and improve outcomes for all.

Erin shared that there is now a Graphic Medicine Resource Lab, with funding from the WITH foundation. It is a collaboration between HDI and UK HealthCare. The lab seeks to create teams of people that will create comic resources. For each project, they plan on having a consultant with lived experience who will lead the team to create the comics, alongside an artist and a healthcare professional.

- 4) Olmstead project update Elizabeth Kries
-Input and feedback from CAC members.

Elizabeth presented an update on the Olmstead project and shared that Olmstead launched the evaluation project in May. They are looking at current services and plans to support people with disabilities to navigate their lives and be part of community. They have finished focus groups. In August, they held 5 focus groups with self-advocates, family members, community-based providers, and residential facility workers.

Issue teams met over the summer to do SWAT analyses in education, employment, housing, transportation, justice, and health. This information was sent to the HDI evaluation team and is now being processed to help create a survey. They hope that everyone impacted by Olmstead will have the opportunity to fill out this survey. After this, the evaluation team will create a report that will be shared across the state. They have also begun key informant interviews to gain diverse representation in their data.

- 5) HDI Executive Director position update Johnny Collett
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Johnny provided an update on the HDI Executive Director position. Johnny shared that Kathy Sheppard-Jones is stepping down as the HDI Executive Director and Beth Potter, a previous division director, is now the acting Executive Director. Kathy is still part of HDI, but no longer acts as the Executive Director. Beth is focusing on all things HDI, while Johnny focuses on external relations. They anticipate that the national search for a new Executive Director will begin soon, but they do not have a timeline. The Vice President for Research position is also vacant now. The search for VP for Research will happen before the search for the Executive Director.

- 6) Break (12:00)
- 7) Teaching Age-Appropriate Learning through Communication (TAALC) project
-Input and feedback from CAC members
- Jacqui Kearns

Jacqui shared the TAALC project. She reported that about ten percent of students come to and leave school without communication systems that they need. She shared that TAALC provides collaborative professional learning opportunities for teachers, SLPs, OTs, PTs, and TVIs. They serve students who need or use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices. They have webinars, asynchronous modules, and in-person meetings. These include Extension of Community Healthcare Options (ECHO) in AAC, which are 5 session series that go over case studies and teaching sessions, 3rd Friday TAALC Topics, C-SETT Framework, asynchronous sources, and the AAC Playground.

- 8) CAC members' evaluating their involvement on the CAC
-Input and feedback from CAC members
- Mykal Leslie

Mykal reported that HDI's evaluation team has grown since his last report to the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC). The evaluation team now has 34 employees and has \$3 million in contracts, including the following projects with: The American Rescue Plan, SOAR (working alongside Appalachian/Eastern Kentuckian individuals to address prime age employment gap), a mental health and homelessness project, Kentucky Department of Education, Tennessee Special Education Department, and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

They are increasing participatory action research to do focus groups with people with disabilities to promote inclusion throughout the research process. They are also developing a survey to ask CAC members about their involvement on the Consumer Advisory Council. A survey link will be sent out. The goal is to improve the experiences of members of the Consumer Advisory Council.

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

Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities - Jake Cruz reported that three members of the DD Council attended the National Developmental Disabilities conference in July. They also had their council meeting in August,

where they elected a new council for the year. Jake announced that they now have a full council and that all appointments are filled.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation - Kristen Beach reported that they have a huge increase in referrals this year, with 1,500 more referrals this year than last. They are working to hire more staff, but are struggling to hire because there are not office spaces in many areas. They are working on a new case management system that will hopefully save time for staff. The transition services branch is having a summit in two weeks where they are targeting school district employees to create good relationships for students that the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation serves.

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities - Cathy Lerza reported that all Medicaid waivers are out for public comment due to amendments that will be going for service rate increases. The public comment ends this Friday, September 13th. Medicaid is doing public forums throughout the state. One was already held, and there are three more that will be scheduled. Links for registration will be sent out by Walt Bower.

- 10) Engaging the CAC by-laws update Jake Cruz
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Walt Bower shared a copy of the bylaws. Jake Cruz made a motion to change “represent” to “reflect” in part B. The motion passed, and language was changed to “reflect”. A final copy will be sent out to the CAC.

- 11) New Business and Announcements Jake Cruz

Walt Bower made an announcement. He shared the upcoming HDI seminar, “The Pitfalls and Benefits of AI in Employment of People with Disabilities” on September 20th from 1:00 to 3:00pm on Zoom. Dr. Trey Conaster and Dr. DJ Hendricks will be the panelists.

Jake Cruz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: December 2nd, 2024 from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM.