

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council Minutes
Coldstream Training Room
Monday, March 7, 2016**

In attendance today...

Maria Delgado
Morgan Crawford
Claudia Johnson
Cathy Edwards
MaryLee Underwood
Frank Huffman
Allie Rhodes
Traci Brewer
Walt Bower
Jennifer Mynear
Lee Gordon
Jennifer Crawford
Elaine Brown
Jason Jones
Kathy Sheppard-Jones
Camille Collins

Guests: Nellie Jones, Samantha Harrison, Jaime Barger, Chastity Ross

Presenters: Chithra Adams, Allie Rhodes, and Jill Griffiths

Technical Assistance and other assistance: provided by Dave Flechler and Judy Johns

1) Welcome and Introductions Cathy Edwards

All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of December Minutes Cathy Edwards

The minutes were reviewed. Traci Brewer made a motion to approve and Jennifer Mynear seconded.

3) Election of CAC representative to quarterly COCA calls Walt Bower

COCA (Council on Community Advocacy) is seeking a CAC representative from HDI to participate in the quarterly conference calls. The next call is March 17th from 2:00 – 3:30 PM. COCA is a way to connect what this group is doing with our national partners as well as provide leadership development for a CAC member. Jennifer Crawford volunteered to serve as the CAC representative from HDI.

4) Update on College and Career Readiness Project Jill Griffiths
and Feedback from CAC

In the Fall 2012, KDE added an initiation to look at how students are participating in the alternate assessment as well as how students are measured. They are currently using the Transition Attainment Record (TAR), which is closely related to the curriculum. This group was looking more closely at the Career Readiness component. For Career Ready there were two assessments designed: (1) Career Ready Academics and (2) Career Ready Technical. They are now able to meet the benchmark for both College and Career Readiness. Next school year, the hope is that schools will be piloting this assessment. The 2017-2018 school year is the first year that accountability begins.

There are two different work groups looking at the assessment and the instruction. They are developing administrator guides, quizzes for teachers, and a database. The instructional workgroup is working on developing a list of acronyms, curriculum resources, course of study descriptions, and a joint webpage with TAALC and the Kentucky Alternate Assessment project (msd1stop.hdiuk.org). The Employability Skills Attainment Record (ESAR) is the new assessment for career readiness academics. The team is currently working on rolling out and implementing the work. They have four CCR usability sites across the state. There will be a joint team meeting with the usability sites.

The CAC members were asked to provide feedback for three target audiences (Parent, Community, Business and Industry). The members addressed the following two questions for each target audience, “What do they need to know about the revised CCR measures and implementation?” and “What are ways to tell them?”

Parent – Present the information on several levels by presenting the big picture and then how it will impact their child. Information should include making sure to include who to go to and why the changes were made. Another comment was to avoid the use of acronyms or explain the terms in user-friendly words. Ways to tell them included creating YouTube videos and case studies to show a step-by-step experience to help families really understand the information. A possibility is to utilize Facebook and access online networks. Providing statistics (data) when presenting information are also helpful because it can be an incentive to follow through.

Community – Focus on disability awareness and how individuals with disabilities can outperform what people initially think. A member commented that communities need to examine how to make education more affordable, including how to make transportation more available. An additional comment was to create disability awareness through materials. Ways to tell them include making presentations at places within the community (i.e., agencies that provide services, organizations that use volunteers) that need to know more about disability awareness.

Business and Industry – A number of questions were directed towards business and industry: How does this benefit them? What responsibilities will they have if they hire a person with a disability? How will they find the people to hire? Will they incur any extra expenses? Encouraging individuals to hire an intern with guidelines to possibly transition to full-time employment. Ways to tell them included having on-site lunch meetings and making connections to people with disabilities who already have job. Another comment

was to explain how customized employment actually works and provide examples. This could show that there is a support network behind the employee.

5) Break

6) Project Spotlight – Kentucky DD Needs Assessment Survey

Chithra Adams
Allie Rhodes

The focus of the project spotlight was on transportation needs looking at both rural and urban needs. Five areas were identified: (1) Affordability (high modification cost, expensive private cabs), (2) Dependency (stress on caregiver employment, loss of independence), (3) Accessibility (driver education, limited accessible seating, safety, comfort), (4) Reliability (long wait times, missed appointments), and (5) Availability (unemployment, few options, limited participation in recreation and community). A collaborative and engaging discussion from CAC members followed the presentation. Five themes emerged from the group discussion:

1) **Training and awareness:** The SCL waiver provides funding for transportation, but so far only four persons have used it. It was suggested to make sure that caseworkers are informing clients about it and perhaps disseminate this information at the quarterly case manager meetings. A member commented that there is no shade or display of times when the bus might arrive or depart at their bus stop.

2) **Linking with city officials:** Invite the coordinator of the city bus service and people from the Mayor’s office to the CAC meetings so they can hear the issues first hand. City officials might be able to bring change to regulations and procedures. For rural areas, a member suggested, “Who do advocates need to know to find transportation?”

3) **Alternate transportation options:** An option for some is to purchase their own vehicle. SCL has a waiver to adapt transportation to the individual and help cover the cost of modifications. The ABLE Act, if passed, could allow certain individuals to set up accounts to be used to save money to buy a vehicle. One member suggested, “Is there a way to use the school buses for after hours, like after five o’clock, for transportation?”

4) **Education and employment:** We need employment statistics on how people are not able to keep or retain jobs because of a lack of transportation. For example, a member commented, “A person may not be able to keep a second shift job because of a lack of reliable transportation.”

5) **Research and transportation:** Make sure to involve transportation agencies when projects are developed by state agencies. One member asked, “Does the Martin School look at transportation at other states to see if they are doing it better?” The Martin School is looking at updating a previous report completed in 2011 or 2012. Another member suggested the possibility of involving college students in urban planning and related departments to look at these different needs.

- 7) Review of Membership Status and Current Terms All

Membership status was reviewed. Questions and concerns were addressed by Walt Bower.

- 8) Agency Updates Each Agency

Protection and Advocacy - Camille Collins announced Protection and Advocacy is organizing a cleanup event at Frankfort State Hospital and School Cemetery in Frankfort. Camille also reported they are looking to identify 4 sheltered workshops to provide alternate training. The Protection & Advocacy for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) Advisory Board is creating a video on employment that is coming forth soon. The PAC Advisory Board is gearing up to start self-advocacy training to identify people who are inappropriately living in a nursing facility.

Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities - Marylee Underwood reported they are currently in the public comment period (March 1 – May 1, 2016) on the new five-year strategic state plan. The three goals are: (1) Self-advocacy, (2) Capacity building for general systems change, and (3) System change in community-based programs. The legislative session is also happening and includes two bills related to the ABLE Act. She stated it is important to educate your legislator because the ABLE Act could easily fall through the cracks. Marylee also reported that the Governor announced that he intends to make 4.5% budget cuts this year that will impact statewide agencies except Medicaid. Marylee encouraged talking to your legislator to continue to keep services for persons with disabilities intact. The 874K Coalition Annual Rally was at the Capitol Rotunda on February 2, 2016.

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities - Claudia Johnson reported the SCL waiver submitted in June is still in the process of being approved by CMS. The SCL regulation has also been deferred. Claudia also reported they are seeking volunteers to provide input on the CMS final rule. SCL now has an emergency wait list with 49 persons on the emergency list. Additional slots will be released when the waiver is approved by CMS.

- 9) New Business and Announcement Cathy Edwards

Cathy Edwards agreed to serve a second consecutive 3 year term as a CAC member.

- 10) Lunch and Further Discussion about CAC Members' Involvement in HDI Projects All

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, June 6, Coldstream 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, followed by a working lunch.

Cathy Edwards made a motion to adjourn and Jennifer Mynear seconded the motion.