

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Coldstream Training Room
Monday March 5, 2018 9AM – 1 PM**

In attendance today... CAC Members

Camille Collins
Claudia Johnson
Jennifer Ulbricht
Walt Bower
Elaine Brown
Jennifer Mynear
Jessica Whitehead
Jennifer Hicks
Morgan Crawford
Vickey Reilly
Lee Gordon
Traci Brewer
Cathy Edwards

Guests: Chatia Frazier, Amanda Corbin

Presenters: Deedra Brown, Joanne Rojas

Technical and other assistance: provided by Judy Johns and Maurice Dawson

1) Welcome & Introductions Jennifer Hicks

All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of December Minutes Jennifer Hicks

The minutes were reviewed. Correction to the December minutes: Under the Council on Developmental Disabilities update “February 31st” should be changed to “January 31st” and under Protection and Advocacy “statutes” needs to be changed to “statute.” Jennifer Ulbricht made a motion to accept the December minutes and Jennifer Mynear seconded.

3) AUCD Update – Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA) Jennifer Ulbricht

Jennifer Ulbricht did not have an update because she has a new email address and did not receive the announcement for the last meeting. Her email address has been updated on the COLA listserv.

4) Transition Opportunities Program (TOP) Update Deedra Brown

Deedra Brown gave a presentation on the Transition Opportunities Program (TOP) program, a collaboration between HDI, the Office for the Blind and the Kentucky Department of Education.

TOP was developed several years ago by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act as a program designed to provide pre-employment services to visually impaired students. TOP began with five school districts and now 35 districts are involved. Initially focusing on eastern Kentucky schools, this spring and summer Deedra will be concentrating on western Kentucky schools.

TOP provides services for students who are eligible for OFB services or will potentially need services. Services are provided individually and in groups. There are shared offices throughout the state. Participating districts receive reimbursement of \$25 per hour per activity per student to help sustain the program. Pre-employment services include five categories: 1) Job Exploration Counseling, 2) Work-Based Learning Experiences, 3) Post-Secondary Counseling, 4) Workplace Readiness Training, and 5) Instruction in Self-Advocacy.

Around 40 students are served through TOP. The program serves students in eighth grade through high school (ages 14-21). Eligible students can have an IEP, a 504, or a documented disability. There is no requirement that they be in special education. Non-traditional students, homeschool students, and students in the juvenile justice system are included.

Deedra outlined how school districts can apply to participate in TOP. Training and technical assistance are free to districts. The process of identifying students, authorization from OFB, and training could put turnaround at about 10 days. Training is 2-3 hours to a half-day, often one-on-one, and involves going through each of the services more in depth and then providing the resources.

Meada Hall is the Director and Deedra Brown is the Project Coordinator. Vickey mentioned that the training is thorough. Please email Deedra for a copy of the map that shows which counties are in TOP so far. Any help from the CAC getting the word out is appreciated.

- 5) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Grant Application Walt Bower

Walt provided an update regarding the new five-year UCEDD application. The new five-year UCEDD application has recently been released. A 60-page proposal is being prepared which is due in April. They are using input from the last CAC meeting. Thank you for the input. Please feel free to contact Kathy Sheppard-Jones with any questions.

- 6) HDI Consumer Advocacy Toolkit (CAT) Jennifer Ulbricht

At the AUCD conference, Jennifer met Caroline Gooden and talked about creating a guide for parents and families with a new diagnosis. At the last CAC meeting, she had the idea to make a bare-bones advocacy toolkit. Jennifer gave a PowerPoint as a guide and provided sample pages of the toolkit. She said the project was funded because Dr. Gooden led the way on writing the proposal for HDI's Fund for Excellence. It is still in the early stages, so they don't have a full draft yet and are interested in feedback on the toolkit. They hope to have a full draft by the next CAC meeting to get as much feedback as possible. Jennifer is the Project Coordinator.

There are two options for the format: 1) a thin binder that the person fills out; 2) or a LiveBinder (a digital interactive tool that people can download.) It is designed to be tailored to individual needs. There will be five sections: 1) Defining Self-Advocacy, 2) Identifying Personal Strengths and Needs, 3) Setting Goals, 4) Advocacy Activities, and 5) Resources. As far as content is concerned, the first priority is to use plain language. There are also encouraging stories interspersed throughout the toolkit. There are also a variety of quotes, links to videos, activities, and explanations. Working with self-advocates will be part of the feedback process.

The CAC reviewed sample pages from the toolkit and provided feedback. Jennifer asked the CAC members to review the type of font, size of the font, the usefulness of the content, and flow of the layout. One CAC member commented, "On the printed samples, the font size looks a bit small." Morgan suggested the 12-point font be changed. Claudia mentioned that the section about how a bill becomes a law should be clarified as federal process. Cathy asked if there would be a braille version and Jennifer said the digital version should be compatible with Assistive Technology software. It was suggested that italicized words be changed to bold words. The toolkit will be reviewed again in June.

7) Break

8) Child Care Aware Project Update

Joanne Rojas

Joanne Rojas provided an overview of Child Care Aware (CCA). The PI and director is Mary Howard. Joanne is the Co-PI and associate director. There are eight regions across the state that cover every county in Kentucky. Regional RCCAs (who are support coaches in the regions) go into childcare centers to improve childcare across the state through connecting providers with resources. A large part of the grant covers travel for RCCAs to get across the state.

HDI promotes optimal development across the lifespan and CCA is committed to the development of high-quality childcare settings. Coaches have additional training to help providers to do those trainings. Screeners and curriculum are provided at no cost across the state. CCA serves all licensed and certified childcare providers (except for Head Start and in the school system). They provide very broad childcare support through a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). CCA helps providers move up the QRIS system and receive incentives from the state. A new system, Kentucky All Stars, will go into regulation in the middle of April.

Distinctive to Kentucky is the variety of coaches that we have. We have four types in Kentucky provide services: (1) Health and Safety coaches; (2) Quality coaches; (3) Training coaches; (4) Professional Development coaches. Joanne also reported that Christine Houseman was selected to be the Act Early Ambassador for Kentucky. RCCAs are getting into their communities to find out about unmet needs to facilitate better collaborations with the community. Joanne is spearheading research on childcare deserts across the state with the Kentucky Research Center at UK. Early Childcare at HDI also has the KEDS program, which marks assessments of children from childcare to school.

Traci asked if coaches can provide coaching for providers for children with disabilities. Joanne said coaches have resources and are aware. The CCA website is being updated. You can look up a childcare provider on their website to see what level they are or if there are sanctions against them.

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

Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs – Lee Gordon reported at the last meeting that the director had retired. The new executive director is Shellie May who has been there since the end of January. She has a child with special needs and a nursing background.

Protection & Advocacy – Camille Collins reported there have been three bills that they are following. 1) House Bill 5 – P&A has been advocating against this bill, but it has been given to the Governor to sign. It allows a bench trial to take place in the guardianship process when someone's rights have been filed to be terminated. Three interdisciplinary reports must be filed and the judge will now make the determination when all parties agree to it. They often see that attorneys are appointed or might not understand those statutes.

2) House Joint Resolution 33 – Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) passed the House and is now with the Senate Judiciary committee and P&A hopes to be part of the stakeholder group. 3) Senate Bill 19 – This will increase the penalties for sex crimes against people with disabilities. In consent statutes, people with I/DD or mental illness cannot consent to sex. P&A had concerns about people who had the ability to provide consent but could not do so legally. P&A met with the Senator Danny Carroll of Paducah, and now the bill has a sub clause that says they do have the capacity to consent. P&A has been talking about this issue for years and they don't know if it will pass but are hopeful right now.

P&A continues to work with supported decision making at HDI. HDI implemented supported decision making in hopes of people being able to retain their rights. Posters of people with I/DD have been hung between the capitol and the annex because March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month.

Council on Developmental Disabilities – Jennifer Hicks is following a bill put forth by Senator Danny Carroll that would put the Kentucky Peer Support program in all schools. The program pairs students with disabilities with non-disabled students to provide mentoring and social support. The Council funds programs for a short amount of time in hopes that they become sustainable through the state, and this would be an instance of that if it goes through. In June, the Council is sending a group of students to Washington D.C. to do some advocating with their legislators. Board training for self-advocates is later this month in Louisville.

Members of the Council are going to the ARC conference to show the documentary *Bottom Dollars*. Jennifer reported they are in the process of creating self-advocacy videos. The topic is speaking to your legislators. The next topic is voting rights. The last Council meeting was in February and the next one is in May in the new office in Frankfort. There are plans to go to the Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM) dinner and reception for employers later this month. They are trying to build stronger relationships with SHRM and the Chamber.

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Claudia Johnson reported there are no SCL slots available and an emergency waiting list has been started. There will be some slots opened at the start of the new waiver year March 1, 2018. There are typically 300-500 on the emergency list and it has put a real strain on community mental health centers. There is no new money for additional slots in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY19-20.

The HB 144 commission has been working with the Department for Medicaid Services and the Transportation Cabinet to talk through some of the transportation barriers. Jeremy Thompson sent a memo to transportation program partners to clarify regulations. There is hope that the Medicaid Waiver redesign will include improvements in transportation.

DDID is in the second year of a CDC grant partnering with HDI. As Project CHEER (Community Health, Education and Exercise Resources) rounds the halfway mark of year 2 we have seen some great progress on resource development and the development of partnerships and collaborations at local and state levels. Project CHEER is getting ready to have the first community conversation March 27th in Somerset.

- 10) New Business and Announcements Jennifer Hicks

The next CAC meeting is June 4, 2018. Jennifer asked Walt to make a list of CAC members along with name tags or tent cards.

- 11) Special Recognition Walt Bower

A certificate of recognition was presented to Jennifer Mynear for serving as the past CAC chair.

- 12) Lunch and Further Discussion about CAC Members’
Involvement in HDI Projects All

Jennifer Ulbricht motioned to adjourn and Camille Collins seconded the motion.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, June 4, 2018 Coldstream 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, followed by a working lunch.