

**HDI Consumer Advisory Council
Online meeting in Zoom
Monday June 5, 2023 10:30AM – 1:30PM**

In attendance today... CAC Members

Skylar Pash	Jonathan White
Cathy Lerza	Meghan Ackerman
Joe Cowan	Sherece Cole
Julie Pfeiffer	Walt Bower
Jake Cruz	Cathy Buncher
Joshua Seigle	Virginia Bland
Bobby Begley	Vivian Lasley

Presenters: Teresa Belluscio, Johnny Collett, Erin Fitzgerald

1) Welcome & Introductions Skylar Pash

Skylar opened the meeting. All members introduced themselves.

2) Review and Approval of March Minutes Skylar Pash

Jake asked for members to review the March minutes. Skylar made a motion to approve the minutes, and Joshua seconded. March minutes were approved.

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

Sherece provided a COLA update. COLA's last meeting was May 1. Future planning and searching for a council trainee representative were discussed. Walt provided a short overview of COLA. The purpose of COLA is to enhance the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) by fostering current and new leaders with lived experience of disability, including their family members, to promote leadership in their programs and communities.

4) Electing of COLA Representative Skylar Pash

Vivian nominated herself as the new COLA representative. CAC members voted and approved Vivian as the new COLA representative for the CAC. Walt thanked Sherece for her service as the COLA representative.

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

Teresa provided an overview and update on HDI's Summer Leadership Experience Camp. This year the camp is July 12-15 and will be offered both in-person and virtually. To be eligible for the Summer Leadership Experience Camp, students must be juniors or seniors in a Kentucky high school, younger than 22 years old, will be enrolled in an education program in 2023-2024, and have a documented disability. The camp focuses on student transition to their next educational step.

Information sessions and guest speakers provide campers with career planning advice and discuss various higher education programs and resources. Teresa discussed how to apply online for next year's camp. Bobby asked how information about the camp is distributed. Teresa replied that informational flyers are sent to vocational rehabilitation counselors and various educators. Several CAC members asked for access to the informational flyers to distribute to their networks.

- 6) Engaging the CAC by-laws update Johnny Collett
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Johnny discussed proposed updates to the CAC by-laws. Johnny reviewed sections of the by-laws and discussed recommended edits. CAC members provided comments, suggestions, and further edits to the by-laws.

- 7) Kentucky Supported Higher Education Erin Fitzgerald
Partnership (KSHEP) update
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Erin provided a KSHEP update. KSHEP is a network of colleges and universities committed to increasing higher education options, access, and success for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the Commonwealth. Erin shared a video from KET that discussed the College and Career Studies (CCS) program.

CCS is UK's Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) program. CCS is a general studies non-degree program. The program is approximately 6 credit hours per semester for 4 semesters with 3 semesters including an internship or other career exploration experience. KSHEP can provide support and resources to students with disabilities even if they are not CTP students. Applications are

currently being reviewed with interviews to be scheduled. Up to 5 new students will be accepted into the CCS program for Fall 2023 semester. With 5 returning students who receive support, the CCS program will support up to 10 students during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Bobby asked about a residential component. The CTP program at UK does not offer a residential component although other programs across Kentucky are able to at this time. Another CAC member asked about financial aid. As a CTP program, students can apply for financial aid.

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

Developmental Disabilities Council - Jake provided an agency update for the DD Council. The new Executive Director, Johnny Callebs, attended his first council meeting in May. He and Justin Jeter attended the signing of HB238 which prohibits discrimination based on disability in organ transplants. The DD Council is finalizing contracts for next year. The Kentucky Partners in Policymakers (KPIP) recently had a reunion of all KPIP classes and is currently recruiting new members. The National Developmental Disabilities Conference will be held July 25th to 28th in Orlando, FL.

Division of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities – Cathy provided an update for DDID. The COVID 19 public health emergency ended May 11th. Below are links with information about the end of the emergency and what it means.

[Kentucky Public Health Emergency Unwinding FAQs](#)

[Kentucky Public Health Emergency Flexibilities Tracker](#)

[CDC “What You Need to Know”](#)

[HHS Fact sheet](#)

The Department for Public Health has launched a new Kentucky [website](#) which has county-by-county data, maps and charts on health factors.

The Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Aging and Independent Living, and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental, and Intellectual Disabilities are working together to determine ways we can streamline the 1915c waivers. There are six 1915c waivers in Kentucky: two for people with Acquired Brain Injury, one for people who are using a ventilator for 12 or more hours a day, one for people

with a physical disability or are 65 or older, and two for people with a developmental disability.

[Information about 1015c waivers](#)

[Kentucky's 1015c waivers and other programs](#)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation – Jonathan reported that OVR is working on implementing a new case management system. OVR uses their case management system to move cases through the program and to authorize and pay for services. OVR is also focused on rapid consumer engagement to assist clients more efficiently. The McDowell Center recently underwent several renovations to update their space. OVR continues to focus on transition services, which are services provided to students with disabilities transitioning from school to work. Jonathan also reported that about 50% of their consumers are students with disabilities.

- 9) Joint Council meeting discussion Skylar Pash
-Input and feedback from CAC members

Walt asked the CAC members for topics of interest to be discussed during the next joint council meeting. Vivian discussed emotional anxiety and mental health issues among young children in her area. Several CAC members made comments supporting Vivian's suggestion. Bobby discussed the role of social media. Jake suggested encouraging the DD Council to hold a state-wide conference.

- 10) New Business and Announcements Skylar Pash

Jake reiterated that the DD Council is currently receiving applications on their website for new members.

Walt mentioned that the Southeast ADA Center is working with researchers to understand the employment goals and experiences of people with disabilities. Researchers are looking for participants to share their story. Walt provided sign up information for CAC members who may be interested.

Joe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Skylar seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

NEXT CAC MEETING: Monday, September 11th, 2023, at 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM