



Community Advisory Council Meeting

DRAFT NOTES June 26, 2024, 12-3pm

Agenda Summary

12:00-12:20	Welcome!
12:20-12:30	Membership updates.
12:30-12:40	CDCI Year in Review Introduction
12:40-1:00	CDCI Year in Review Academics
1:00-1:20	CDCI Year in Review Service
1:20-1:30	Break
1:30-1:40	White House!
1:40-1:45	CAC photo!
1:45-2:05	CDCI Year in Review Research
2:05-2:25	CDCI Year in Review Communication
2:25-2:35	Open feedback on Year in Review
2:35-2:45	Fall 2024 Updates
2:45-3:00	Public comment and discuss how meeting went

Detailed Agenda and Notes

12:00-12:15 Welcome.

- The meeting began at 12:05 once we had 6 members and quorum.
- David led introductions. Members and CDCI personnel introduced themselves.
- The table below show who was present.

Name	Present
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Yes
Hasan Ko	Yes
Matthew LeFluer	No
Kristofor Medina	No
Kirsten Murphy	Yes
Lindsey Owen	No
Skye Peebles	Yes
Persephone Ringgenberg	Yes
Michael Shor	Yes
Total 7 out of 10	70% of members

CDCI Personnel Present: Audrey, Adrienne, Rachel, Winnie, and Jesse

- VOTE: Do you approve minutes from March meeting?
 - Michael commented there were a couple typos.
 - A motion was made by Michael to accept the March notes after Jesse has fixed the typos. It was seconded by David and the motion passed: 5 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no.

12:15-12:20 Review agenda.

Jesse reviewed the main topics for today's meeting:

1. Jesse will share brief updates on council membership.
2. CDCI Year in Review is the biggest topic.
 - a. Core function coordinators will share work we did.
 - b. Council members should ask questions and make recommendations.

3. A few council members will talk about their trip to the White House!
4. Then Audrey will help take CAC photo.
5. Before we end, Jesse will share highlights for Fall 2024.

12:20 – 12:30 Membership Updates

Skye shared membership updates.

- Membership committee is Skye, Kirsten, and Matthew.
- 4 people have applied to join the CAC!
- Membership committee is scheduling interviews for July. 3 applicants are scheduled to meet with the committee during the week of July 8.
- Council members asked for more details about who has applied. The committee has not reviewed the applications so no information available.
- Audrey said one candidate applied after talking with their family. They were completed the online application after being invited.
- They were also questions about the process. Some council members asked if applicants should attend the meeting when the voting occurs. Jesse shared our meetings are open to the public, so the applicants can choose whether to attend. If they are elected they become members right away.
- Skye recommended that the membership committee talk with the executive committee about planning next steps after interviews.

12:30 – 12:40 CDCI Year in Review Introduction

- Jesse introduced the CDCI Year in Review.
- He shared the introduction. He highlighted that the second page has information on people who work at CDCI and sources of funding. This information is in our annual reports, and first time sharing it with CAC first.

12:40 – 1:00 CDCI Year in Review Academics (WINNIE)

- Winnie led discussion on academics this year. She reviewed the goals and progress presented in the CDCI Year in Review 2024 document.
- Winnie asked the CAC: Who should we design community education modules for?
 - David: People who want to learn about disability issues.
 - Persephone said broader community should participate. People need more awareness. Especially awareness about mental health. Need to educate community members, like store owners.
 - Michael: Many audiences need to be educated about these topics. Depends on what the education is about. Important for more administrators to have better understanding and perspective. Gave example of administrators at UVM. At UVM would be helpful for people to have a better understanding of the experiences of students with disabilities. This is more specific than broader trainings about disability. Also important to recognize people have many ways they are different. Legislators could be invited.
 - Skye: Important to identify who is not receiving this education already. Could target specific areas. Gave examples of Parks and Recreation and Chambers of Commerce.
 - Kirsten: Agree that it's important to reach out to people who are not aware of disability community. Business owners for example need information that may seem very basic for us.
 - Persephone: Agreed because some employers are biased when learn people receive services from Howard Center.
 - Mel: Shared that recently a UVM leader reached out to All Brains Belong to get more information. Good that they wanted to learn about disability. Problem is they did not want to pay people. They need to know the basics including that you need to pay people.

- Winnie shared goal is to provide short trainings so easy for people to participate. Then give them links to other resources to learn more.
- Skye: Took an online class recently. She liked the feature that all the class resources could be downloaded easily.
- Mike: Like the idea of short trainings. Recommended making sure there are good resources to link to. May need to create those ahead of time if do not exist. Those resources should be in plain language.

1:00 – 1:20 CDCI Year in Review Service (ADRIENNE)

- Adrienne led discussion on service this year. She reviewed the goals and progress presented in the CDCI Year in Review 2024 document.
- When Adrienne highlighted the leadership series, she asked who has participated. Several CDCI CAC members have participated.
- Adrienne asked the CAC: How can we best learn about people's experiences with services?
- Michael: Important to have discussions with people about issues important to them. Do not need to do a lot of these, but they are important. Sometimes resources exist in theory, but not reality.
- David: Personal stories are very important.
- Skye: Asked what is the goal for learning about experiences?
 - Adrienne said we have more than one goal. One is to see how effective our programs are. Another is this can help us decide what new services are needed. A third area is learning how people learn about and access services.
 - Skye said surveys like this can be very helpful. Also helpful to share what is working. This can inform people about good resources.
- Mel: Said a listening session from 2023 that CDCI co-hosted had good information. She remembered a good discussion about services. Recommend we go back to that information to learn more.

- Michael: Recommends creating a web page inviting people to give feedback. Website needs to be easy to find and welcoming. This could provide useful qualitative information. Need to be careful not to bias the sample with questions.

1:20 – 1:30 Break

1:30 – 1:50 Council Members Went to the White House!

- David shared that
 - He, Hasan, and Kirsten went to the White House for 25th anniversary of the Olmstead Act!
 - It was an honor to go. David shared focus was on protecting progress that has been made.
 - Shared some of the history. Two women from Georgia went to the Supreme Court so they were not forced to be in an institution.
- Hasan said
 - They saw [a video focused on self-advocacy and independence](#). In the video woman shared her experiences with independence. Hasan said everyone needs opportunity to have the support they need.
 - Also shared the visit to DC was very hot!
- Kirsten shared they were invited by White House staffer focused on disability.
 - This is the first time that the Developmental Disabilities Council network was invited to their own event at the White House.
 - Kirsten shared more info about the video. Actress and filmmaker were both there at the event.
 - President and Vice President were not there, but they did hear from a senior advisor, [Tom Perez](#).
 - Kirsten mentioned still have a long way to go to make community-based services meet the goals of the Olmstead act.

- There were panels of advocates who spoke from different states.
- Persephone said this should have been a celebration.
 - She said many people in Burlington who are homeless only received services in institutions.
 - Kirsten said at the event there was recognition that while there have been gains, there is a lot more work to get done.
 - Kirsten said there are still short-term placements. Olmstead was about people having the option to be served in the community.
 - Kirsten shared the original two plaintiffs in the court case had both developmental disabilities and mental health concerns.
 - Michael said focus of Olmstead was to give people access to services in the community that before only could get in institutions. Good to acknowledge that there is underfunding of crisis resources. He shared example in St. Johnsbury that a client of his was locked in emergency room for several days. We need more options in emergency situations.
 - CDCI should be thinking about how to help with this given goal on mental health and housing. Need to handle people equitably and safely.
 - Adrienne shared makes her think of Mental Health First Aid.
 - Kirsten posted a photo of David and Hasan sitting outside the White House.

1:50 – 1:55 Council Photo! (AUDREY)

Audrey took photo of everyone present in the meeting today to share on our website.

1:55 – 2:15 CDCI Year in Review Research (JESSE)

- Jesse led discussion on research this year. He reviewed the goals and progress presented in the CDCI Year in Review 2024 document.

- Mel: It would be helpful to give CAC members a menu of ways they can participate in Community Needs Assessment. Jesse shared four important ways members can help:
 - We need help understanding what we already know and do not know. This will help us choose good questions to ask.
 - We need help with making sure lots of people give feedback and no groups are left out.
 - We need help deciding how best to ask the questions. Surveys, listening sessions, interviews, and other ways of asking questions all need to be planned.
 - And we need help deciding how best to understand and share what we learned. This will be in a report, and likely needs to be shared in other ways to be accessible.
- Jesse noted that the meeting was 10 minutes behind scheduled. Council agreed to reduce agenda item after communications.
- Michael wants to be involved. He is interested in contributing more at CDCI. Wants to meet one on one with people here to explore that.
- Mel: Asked about wraparound project. Jesse gave a short summary of the work. Wraparound is a team process where children and families choose their goals and who is on the team. It is like person centered planning. Schools need to support students who are struggling. Jesse's research is to help schools learn to offer wraparound in a more effective way.
- Michael: Said this is an area he is interested in. He believes schools sometimes ask the wrong questions. To support good advocacy, schools need to help students learn useful skills. Also see issue of sometimes the solution is for schools to put another person with a student.

2:15 – 2:35 CDCI Year in Review Communication (AUDREY)

- Audrey led discussion on communication this year. They reviewed the goals and progress presented in the CDCI Year in Review 2024 document.

- Audrey corrected the summary to say we have finished 12 podcast episodes (up from 11)!
- Audrey noted that CDCI received approximately 2 dozen requests for training on accessibility. We need funding to respond to these requests.
- Audrey asked the CAC: Who would you like to see on the podcast next year?
 - Persephone: Recommended self-advocates with mental health diagnoses (example: bipolar or schizophrenia).
 - Mel: Does anyone have a good story of a successful transition out of high school? Recommend be someone who has finished high school. Any successful stories about wraparound?
 - Jesse responded with two ideas. First, the Pathways to Partnerships schools may know of recent high school graduates that had a successful experience. Second, there is a film that focuses on a high school wraparound intervention called RENEW in the film [Who Cares About Kelsey](#) (CDCI has a copy).
- Michael: I see need to focus on transition after high school AND across other transitions. Could be transition after college. Transition should not be framed as ending at age 25.
- Skye: What about having groups of people on the podcast? Some people may not want to talk for a full podcast by themselves. Could choose different topics and identify groups of people who are all interested in that topic.

2:30 – 2:35 Open Feedback on Year in Review

- Mel shared thought this went well.
- Skye: Very clear format.
- David: Going to miss Adrienne!

2:35 – 2:45 Updates for Fall (DAVID)

David introduced a few updates.

- CDCI will not be attending AUCD in DC this year.
 - Jesse shared the conference is at the same time as the presidential election. Many do not want to go to DC then, so more of the conference will be online this year. Jesse does not have all the details yet for what will be online. He will share that later.
 - Persephone interested in attending next year.
- Calendar invitations will be sent for CAC dates next year. They are:
 - September 18, 2024
 - December 18, 2024
 - March 19, 2025
 - June 25, 2025
- We are planning a 50th anniversary celebration for November 14! All CAC members are invited and will send a save-the-date soon.
- David shared he wants more people on CAC to meet in-person in September. Council discussed how other groups are doing this now. For example the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council has meetings around the state and people can join online.
 - Persephone: Requested that in-person meetings be on bus line. CDCI used to hold meetings at the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired and that location was not on the bus line.

2:45-3:00 Public Comment and Process Meeting

- No members of the public attended today.
- Adrienne shared the Owl camera was fun for this meeting. The images of the people in-person at the Center reminded her of the Brady Bunch.

- She also shared that she really enjoyed these meetings. She has learned a lot from this group. She appreciates everyone's hard work and participation.
- Several CAC members shared it was a great meeting.
- Discussion was over. The meeting ended about 10 minutes early.