

Community Advisory Council Meeting

September 20, 2023, 12-3pm

DRAFT NOTES

Agenda Summary

- 12:00-12:15 Welcome!
- 12:15-12:20 Review agenda.
- 12:20-12:50 AUCD conference.
- 12:50-1:10 Icebreaker activity.
- 1:10-1:25 Take a break.
- 1:25-1:45 How we work together.
- 1:45-2:45 New CDCI 5-year plan.
- 2:45-3:00 Discuss how meeting went.

12:00-12:15 Welcome

- The council started the meeting at 12:15 when we had 6 council members join.
- David lead introductions.
- **VOTE: Do you approve minutes from June meeting?**
 - Kirsten moved to approve the minutes.
 - Unanimously approved.
- The table below show which members were present.

Name	Present
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Late

Name	Present
June Bascom	Ongoing conflict
Hasan Ko	Yes
Matthew LeFluer	No
Kristofor Medina	Cannot attend
Kirsten Murphy	Yes
Lindsey Owen	Yes
Skye Peebles	Yes
Persephone Ringgenberg	Taking a break
Michael Shor	Yes
Total 6 out of 11	64% of members

CDCI Personnel Present: Audrey, Adrienne, Rachel, Jesse

12:20-12:50 AUCD National Conference

- David went to the conference last year. He shared what the AUCD Conference is, and what he learned.
 - AUCD stands for the Association of University Centers on Disability. This association is for all the Centers like CDCI around the country. Each year they have a conference in DC. It is called the AUCD Conference.
 - David shared that the workshops were informative.
 - But many of the workshops were not in plain language.
 - He thinks AUCD needs to do better with this.

- He said the meeting for self-advocates was very good.
- David also shared he went to the national developmental disabilities' council conference this year.
 - He said it was much better for plain language.
 - Kirsten shared that every presentation must have a self-advocate presenter.
- Michael said using plain language can take more time. Presentations should have more time.
- Skye shared [AUCD has a plain language advisory group](#). She is in this group. They have not met for a while. She recommended we send ideas to this group.
- Hasan shared that plain language is very important. He will talk with Topper about sharing resources on plain language to help AUCD.
- People from CDCI going to AUCD this year are Michael, Matthew, Adrienne, and Jesse.
- There will be 3 presentations from CDCI:
 - Michael: Poster on [Community Partners for Autism Research Project](#). Accessibility and inclusion issues for including people with autism on research teams. The issue is that most research about Autism does not include autistic researchers.
 - Jesse: Poster on Vermont supported employment.
 - Kirsten – frustrated that in Vermont we do not have more data on employment. We do not have data on salary, hours. Most important – is it the job they

want? Need to do more especially for people who need more support to work.

- Skye agree with Kirsten. Want to know more about what employment means.
- Adrienne: Presentation and discussion about CDCI accessibility efforts.
 - Goal is to share examples of what we are doing.
 - Also want to hear what others around the country are doing.
 - Another goal is to make this presentation in plain language and accessible.

12:50-1:10 Icebreaker Activity

- David led the group in an icebreaker activity.
- The prompt was: Think about what change is needed in the world for people with disabilities.
- The question was: ***What is something you can do to help make that change?***

1:15-1:25 Break

There was a brief discussion after the break about COVID-19.

- Mel shared that she has seen a big increase in people testing positive for COVID-19.
- Jesse shared that CDCI has ordered many test kits that should arrive in the next few weeks.

1:25-1:45 How we Work Together

- Mel led discussion about how we work together this year.
- New idea for meeting roles.
 - Co-chair will be facilitator,
 - CDCI staff will be responsible for note taking and time keeping.
 - Everyone should share jargon buster and equalizer roles.
- Mel asked what people would like at these meetings?
 - Michael shared:
 - CAC meetings have gotten better since he joined.
 - We should look at what roles need more support.
Then we may want someone to take on that role at a future meeting. Maybe people could sign up the day before?
 - He also shared that he was glad we have more time to give feedback.
 - David asked if people like the icebreakers. Skye said it was her favorite part of the meeting.
 - Mel said favorite meeting had a handout with info and specific questions. Did others like that? Few members said they liked that.
 - Michael recommended need clarity on hand raising. Do not want to waste time waiting to be called on.
- Mel asked if people are willing to serve on committees.
Committees meet between CAC meetings.
 - Last year, some volunteered for committees:

- Mel, David, June, and Skye a committee on how we work together.
 - Kirsten, Mel, and Matthew are on a committee to bring in new members to the CAC.
- Mel asked CDCI staff what is most helpful for them.
 - Rachel shared helpful to have time to talk about work at CDCI. Want to have time to get council members' feedback.
 - Adrienne enjoys hearing feedback about our current work. And enjoys hearing about work we should do.
 - Audrey said they agree that the most important thing about CAC meetings is getting feedback.
 - Audrey recognized that Michael and Mel have given feedback about communications. Helpful to focus on specific things.
- Mel summarized that it is important to have information and questions ahead of meetings. In the new 5-year plan summary she saw a mix of concrete and broad questions. Sometimes broad questions can be hard to answer, so want concrete ones.
- Michael said there are so many things to do. It is hard to do them all well. Having support from CDCI could help with participation. CDCI could provide more support to get feedback on specific issues.

1:45-2:45 CDCI 5-Year Plan

- A “CDCI 5-Year Plan” summary was sent to CAC members.
- Jesse gave an overview of 3 themes in the summary.
- Then core function coordinators shared goals for each of the four core functions. CAC members gave feedback:
 - **Teaching.** Jesse gave a summary of goals. How do you want to be involved?
 - Michael – likes to better understand what options are to participate. Michael would like to do some teaching. Recognizing support is needed. He wants to talk about barriers at UVM and supports needed to teach.
 - Matthew – needs to be in plain language to participate. Courses need to be in plain language. This excludes students.
 - Michael – there should be college experiences available for everyone.
 - Hasan – about accessibility classes. Want to make sure courses are not fundamentally changed when translated in plain language.
 - Skye – I’d like to hear from students who are taking disability studies. Want to know why they took it and how they are using it. Could we invite guests to CAC?
 - **Community Service.** Adrienne talked about community service goals. She asked how members would like to be involved? More specific questions are in the summary.

- Matthew asked what progress has been made so far on these goals? How are our projects doing related to accessibility and plain language?
- Skye offered to review any specific info or documents before they go out publicly.
- Mel agreed. She would like to hear more from people being served by CDCI projects.
- **Research.** Jesse shared summary and asked questions.
 - David said he learned in high school they will be taking away classes for trades. Examples he gave are classes like wood working, automotive repair, culinary arts, nursing. He said this is a shame because culinary arts was so important for his life.
 - Skye shared there was a job fair recently. Said it was chance for students to learn about many different paths. Going to college is not the only way. It would be helpful to learn more about pathways people are taking to get to their jobs.
 - Mel said it would be helpful to hear about policy changes coming.
 - Michael said there are policy barriers for certain kinds of employment for people with disabilities. For example, social work has licensing rules that make it difficult. Another example is nurses must work a certain number of hours. If they do not, they need to get re-certified. Michael experiences this in social work and billing Medicaid. This is ableist (maybe on

purpose). These barriers need to be part of the discussion, especially for policy.

- **Communication.** Audrey shared an overview of the 4 goals for communications. How do you want to be involved in communications this year?
 - Skye offered to test out resources if that would be helpful before they go out.
 - Michael said it is important to have good audio and visual resources. When audio and video are not good it can hurt accessibility.
 - Matthew said it is important to include ASL when talking about language. There is a lot of need for ASL interpreters around the state.
 - Audrey shared many of our videos have ASL interpretation.
 - Also shared that ASL is an important part of language access.

2:45-3:00 Process and Next Meeting

- Matthew recommended having an ASL interpreter for our meetings.
- Michael said it would be important to have an accommodation that benefits someone who is participating. We should put accessibility resources into things that we need.
- Michael appreciated having time after the meeting to connect.

- David said there will be time in the agenda to report on the AUCD conference.