



Community Advisory Council Meeting

DRAFT NOTES December 18, 2024, 12-3pm

Agenda Summary

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| 12:00-12:30 | Welcome! |
| 12:30-12:45 | Co-chair update and possible vote. |
| 12:45-1:15 | CDCI recent events and updates. |
| 1:15-1:30 | Break. |
| 1:30-1:35 | Introduction to CDCI goals and how to be involved. |
| 1:35-1:55 | Teaching: New certificate and supporting students. |
| 1:55-2:15 | Service: Learn about CDCI projects and accessibility services. |
| 2:15-2:35 | Research: 2 new research grant opportunities. |
| 2:35-2:50 | Upcoming meetings and connections |
| 2:50-3:00 | Public comment and discuss how meeting went |

Detailed Agenda and Notes

12:00-12:20 Welcome.

- The meeting began at 12:10 once we had 6 members and quorum. A quorum is a majority of council members.
- Members introduced themselves. They shared what they want to do on the council.
- Things members shared included: Focusing on equity. Bringing community perspectives. Connecting CDCI and Vermont LEND. Connecting CDCI to public spaces such as libraries. Connecting people to leadership roles.
- The council welcomed the newest members Ocean and Summer!

- A motion was made by Skye to accept the draft September minutes. It was seconded by Persephone and the motion passed: 5 yes, 2 abstain, 0 no.
- The table below shows who was present and the vote to approve the minutes.

| Council member | Present | Approve September Minutes? |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| David Frye | No | |
| Melissa Houser | Yes | Yes |
| Matthew LeFluer | Yes | Yes |
| Kristofor Medina | No | |
| Kirsten Murphy | Yes | Yes |
| Lindsey Owen | No | |
| Skye Peebles | Yes | Yes |
| Persephone Ringgenberg | Yes | Yes |
| Michael Shor, Co-Chair | Yes (joined later) | |
| Summer Stelter | Yes | Abstain |
| Ocean Streeter | Yes | Abstain |
| Total 8 out of 11 | 73% of members | |

CDCI Personnel Present: Audrey, Rachel, Maureen, Jesse

12:20-12:30 Review agenda.

Jesse shared the main topics for today:

1. Opening for one of the Co-Chair positions.
2. Sharing and talking about recent activities at the Center.
3. Discuss goals we are working on. How do you want to be involved?

12:30 – 12:45 Council Membership (Membership Committee)

- The CAC needs a new co-chair to help plan CAC meetings.
- Matthew was elected as Co-Chair last meeting. He needed to step down because internet in Alburgh does not allow him to participate fully.
- The new co-chair would join Michael and Jesse on the Executive Committee.
- Any CAC members with a disability are eligible.
- Members asked a few questions about the role.
 - How many meetings? 4 executive committee meetings in addition to the 4 CAC meetings.
 - Can it be virtual? Yes
- Mel shared that she thought it was awesome to be co-chair. Said Jesse helps the executive committee meetings.
- Michael said good opportunity to be more involved with Center and council.
- Ocean and Summer nominated themselves.
- Mel said she would like to hear more from Ocean and Summer about why they want to be co-chairs.
- Council decided to Ocean and Summer should share why they want to be co-chairs after the break.

CDCI Recent Events and Updates (JESSE)

There have been many activities and events at the Center since our last meeting.

CAC members have asked to be better informed. Jesse shared updates.

Members should ask questions to learn more.

- **We celebrated [CDCI's 50th Anniversary](#)** on November 14.
 - 2 main events: Symposium and then a reception.
 - The symposium showcased the work of 11 projects at the Center.

- Presenters gave 2-3 minute introductions.
 - And then audience could spend time looking at their posters and asking questions.
 - The posters are available online.
 - We recorded the presenters introductions and will make that available soon.
 - Several council members and CDCI personnel shared they went. Said it was valuable to learn more, meet people.
 - Several members also said it was challenging to be in such a large space with so many people. Several shared strategies they used to make it manageable.
 - Suggestions for other events included: Offering ear plugs, quiet spaces, and find ways to reduce visual stimulation of live captions, ASL interpretation, speaker, and video.
- Reception was a time to celebrate the anniversary.
 - Opening remarks by Jesse, Matthew, Dean Katharine Shepherd, and Interim President Patricia Prelock.
 - Unfortunately, Matthew wasn't able to participate because of internet unreliability, so Jesse read his remarks.
 - All remarks were recorded and available soon.
 - Also, Jesse shared [CDCI received a Governor's Proclamation.](#)
- **The [Inclusive Arts Vermont CYCLES Art Exhibition](#)** has been on display at CDCI offices since early November.
 - The exhibition is also available online as an [audio tour](#).
 - [Learn about the artists and listen to descriptions of their artwork.](#)
 - Some artists will continue showing their work at CDCI through May.
 - Persephone shared that her artwork ("Hair Suspension") will remain.
- **Think College gets international recognition:**

- Think College was featured at the [Inclusion in Action Conference](#) at University College Cork in Ireland!
- Earned a spot on the [Zero Project](#) Shortlist for 2025. The shortlist means Think College was in the final round for an award for inclusive employment. Think College did not get an award but invited to March conference in Vienna, Austria.
- Skye said there is a large alum network, how do they stay involved? Audrey shared that Think College has a newsletter and active Facebook page. All alumni are automatically subscribed. Stirling Peebles (Skye's sister) is a big part of this outreach.
- **Vermont I-Team held the first session of their new [Inclusive School Conference series](#). [Dr. Shelley Moore](#) led a dynamic session challenging educators to make schools fully inclusive.**
 - Maureen shared very positive feedback from participants.
 - Next session is in January with new topics including transition, assistive technology, deaf-blindness, math concepts, and more.
- **UVM purchased a license to watch the new documentary “The Ride Ahead” by Dan and Samuel Habib.** You can use your UVM NetID to watch.
 - Few members said they were interested.
 - Jesse will send an email and then help anyone who needs helping using their NetID. Rachel said that Kirsten does not have one, so we will need to set that up.
- **UVM announced a new Office of Accessibility Services** starting in January. This office will coordinate all student and employee disability services. Jesse met with the director to discuss how to support them.
 - Skye suggested we invite the director to a future CAC meeting to learn more.

1:22 – 1:38 Break

1:40 – 2:25 After Break and Co-Chair Nominees

- The break began late so was extended to 1:38.
- Three people had to leave: Matthew, Persephone, and Rachel.
 - Kirsten noted that Matthew left. Jesse shared he will follow up with Matthew. (Matthew returned a short while later saying he had internet issues.)
- The council wanted to hear from the two co-chair nominees before voting.
- Summer shared her background and experiences. She is a business owner. Very open about her experiences with ADHD and autism.
- Ocean shared self and peer advocate. Elected president of local self-advocacy group Champlain Voices. Wants to be more involved.
- Kirsten asked Ocean to share his future goal. She shared she wants to work for Vermont Public and have a radio show focused on people with disabilities.
- Ocean and Summer left the room while the council discussed the vote.
 - Lots of agreement that both would be great as co-chair.
 - And agreement that this is a tough decision!
 - Council members took this very seriously and discussed this for about 20 minutes. All shared this is hard decision because both would be great.
 - Council voted to elect Ocean the CAC co-chair.
- Nominees were invited back to the room. Michael welcomed them back into the room

2:25 – 2:35 Introduction: CDCI Goals and How to be Involved

- Because council spent more time discussing co-chair role, needed to revise the agenda.
- Michael suggested cutting Research topic and focus on Community Service.

- Jesse shared summary of what was on the agenda. Michael noted the focus on accessibility was part of Teaching and Community Service.
- Council agreed to focus on accessibility services needed.

2:35 – 2:55 Community Service

How can we create a project to offer accessibility services?

More people and organizations are asking us to help them be more accessible. We can only respond to a few requests. If we charge for some services more people could do this work.

What accessibility services do you think are most needed?

- Mel likes the idea to expand who can offer these services. UVM educators do not understand their learning. How can UVM support people who's brains work differently?
- Summer asked if this could include Universal Design for Learning.
- Kirsten suggested we speak with Vermont Center for Independent Living because they offer a lot services, especially related to physical accessibility.
 - Jesse said he had spoken with VCIL's director (Sarah Launderville). VCIL is interested in offering more services for college students and
- Skye said very important to have specific trainings with clear learning outcomes. Many people do not know what they need training in. For budgeting, important to pay people for all of their time. This needs to include preparation time not just face-to-face time.
- Summer shared the importance of having toolkits and resources. Not just trainings.
- Michael invited Audrey to contribute. They shared CDCI gets more than a dozen requests a year. Often those requests do not come with a budget. Attitudes need to change that this expertise must be paid for. Audrey has been talking with UVM Foundation to offer a public conference on

accessibility. This would include bringing in community partners. Audrey asked if this is something that CDCI should do?

- Kirsten shared the state of Vermont is offering their second conference on accessibility for state employees.
- Matthew shared that he is also working on this and this is a big part of his work promoting equity around Vermont.
- Michael shared this is important for a council and Center to focus on.
 - Starting with a focus on UVM makes sense. Also need to prioritize where there is funding.
 - Need to recognize that people can experience burnout providing support like this. People who request supports must understand responsibility to use supports and make change.
 - Importance to support accessibility beyond compliance.

2:55-3:00 Process Today's Meeting

- Kirsten shared she thought it was important the council took its time to discuss the co-chair nominees.
- Michael and Ocean plan to meet with Jesse soon to begin planning the next meeting.
- Happy holidays!

The meeting ended at 3:00.
