



## **Community Advisory Council Meeting**

### **APPROVED NOTES September 18, 2024, 12-3pm**

#### **Agenda Summary**

12:00-12:20	Welcome!
12:20-1:00	Co-chair and council member updates and votes.
1:00-1:15	CDCI plan for this year overview
1:15-1:30	Break
1:30-1:45	Academics plan
1:45-2:00	Community service plan
2:00-2:15	Research plan
2:15-2:30	Communication plan
2:30-2:50	Open feedback
2:50-3:00	Public comment and discuss how meeting went

#### **Detailed Agenda and Notes**

##### **12:00-12:15 Welcome.**

- The meeting began at 12:10 once we had 5 members and quorum.
- David led introductions. Members and CDCI personnel introduced themselves and were invited to share a recent event.
- David shared he went to the White House 3 weeks ago. President Biden said a few remarks. The event was to celebrate Disability Pride.
- Kirsten shared that Thomas Caswell, Max Barrows, and Karen Topper also were there. 5 from Vermont! They were in the front row, right next to

President Biden during his speech. Kirsten said there is a video and she will share a link.

- Mel shared that sadly she is seeing many people with COVID at her practice.
- Michael shared the UVM grants he has worked on are ending. He's figuring out what to do next.
- Rachel will be leaving after break for dentist appointment.
- Jesse shared upcoming art exhibit at CDCI. Inclusive Arts Vermont CYCLES exhibit will be at CDCI November and December.
- Maureen introduced herself as "the new Adrienne." She is taking on the role of Community Service Coordinator.
- Skye just started a new job at library in Bellows Falls Vermont.
- Matthew shared he is on many committees and boards. Many are not focused on disability so can be frustrating. His goal is to support all people in Vermont.
- The table below shows who was present.

Council member	Present
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Yes
Matthew LeFluer	Yes
Kristofor Medina	No
Kirsten Murphy	Yes
Lindsey Owen	Yes (joined after 1pm)
Skye Peebles	Yes
Persephone Ringgenberg	Yes
Michael Shor	Yes

Council member	Present
Total 8 out of 9	89% of members

**CDCI Personnel Present:** Rachel, Maureen, Jesse

- A motion was made by Skye to accept the draft June minutes. It was seconded by Mel and the motion passed: 6 yes, 1 abstain, 0 no.

## 12:15-12:20 Review agenda.

Jesse shared the main topics for today:

1. Council membership.
  - a. Nominating and electing new co-chairs.
  - b. Nominating and electing new council members.
2. CDCI Plan for the year is the biggest topic.
  - a. Core function coordinators will share work we did.
  - b. Jesse will share plans for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on 11/14.
  - c. Council members should ask questions and give feedback.

## 12:20 – 12:40 Council Membership (Membership Committee)

CAC members decided to discuss council membership first, then the co-chair positions.

- Kirsten shared that she and Skye interviewed 2 applicants to join CAC.
  - **Summer Stelter (Presented by Kirsten)**
    - She is a person with a disability.
    - In the interview she shared how much she wants to help disability issues.
    - Lives in Northeast Kingdom, brings geographic diversity.
    - Recommend the council vote to accept her to council.
  - **Ocean Streeter (Presented by Skye)**
    - She is a person with a disability.
    - She lives in South Burlington.

- On GMSA statewide Board of Directors.
- Recommend the council vote to accept her to the council.
- Skye shared that both understand the commitment to attend meetings and role of CAC members.
- Mel shared that she knows both candidates through All Brains Belong and they are strong advocates.
- Kirsten made a motion for both Summer and Ocean to become members of the CAC. Skye seconded the motion.
- Vote was conducted by roll call:

Council member	Vote
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Yes
Matthew LeFluer	Yes
Kristofor Medina	Not present
Kirsten Murphy	Yes
Lindsey Owen	Not present
Skye Peebles	Yes
Persephone Ringgenberg	Abstain
Michael Shor	Yes

The vote passed with 6 Yes, 1 abstain, and 0 no votes.

- Jesse shared there were 4 candidates who applied in recent months. A third candidate was interested but couldn't find a time to meet.
- Jesse will ask if they have 4 or 5 days next month to meet with Skye and Kirsten.

## 12:40 – 1:15 CAC Co-Chairs (JESSE)

Need to elect new co-chairs. David and Mel have each served for 2 years. Thank you so much for your service!

- One co-chair should be a person with a disability.
  - Current eligible members: Matthew, Michael, Persephone, Kristofor.
- Other co-chair should be a family member.
  - Skye is the only current candidate who is eligible.
  - Skye shared that she is new to the CAC and does not feel she can take on the co-chair role
  - Jesse clarified that she is not required to take this role.
- CAC reviewed the Bylaws to read the roles and responsibilities of co-chairs.
- Mel and David shared their experiences as co-chair. They thanked Jesse for his support.
- Michael and Matthew nominated themselves for co-chair.
- Kirsten shared she is a family member. She suggested she could serve in role for one year until there are more family members on CAC.
  - Michael and Matthew added because Kirsten serves as a representative of the Developmental Disabilities Council it might not fit with the bylaws. Or it could be a conflict of interest.
  - Kirsten withdrew her nomination.
- Michael said he is also a family member and nominated himself for the family member co-chair position.
- Motion: Mel made a motion to elect Michael in family member co-chair role and Mathew in self-advocate co-chair role
- Seconded: David
- Persephone asked for clarification on why Kirsten was no longer being considered for co-chair. Kirsten responded to say why she withdrew her nomination.
- Michael suggested splitting the vote for the 2 separate positions.

- Persephone made a motion for Michael to serve in the family member co-chair role.
- David Seconded

Council member	Vote
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Yes
Matthew LeFluer	Yes
Kristofor Medina	
Kirsten Murphy	Yes
Lindsey Owen	Yes
Skye Peebles	Yes
Persephone Ringgenberg	Yes
Michael Shor	Yes

The vote passed with 8 Yes, 0 abstain, and 0 no votes.

- Kirsten made a motion for Matthew to serve in the person with a disability co-chair role.
- David Seconded

Council member	Vote
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Yes
Matthew LeFluer	Yes
Kristofor Medina	
Kirsten Murphy	Yes
Lindsey Owen	Yes

Council member	Vote
Skye Peebles	Yes
Persephone Ringgenberg	Abstain
Michael Shor	Yes

The vote passed with 7 Yes, 1 abstain, and 0 no votes.

- David said congratulations to the new co-chairs!
- Jesse will contact them soon to discuss how best to meet and plan the next council meeting in December.
- Decided to move the next agenda item after the break.

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## 1:15 – 1:30 Break

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### 1:30 – 1:35 CDCI Plan for Year Introduction (JESSE)

Jesse introduced the CDCI plan for this year.

- This year we celebrate CDCI's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - On November 14<sup>th</sup> there will be an afternoon conference (3:00-5:00) and an evening reception (5:00-6:30).
  - CAC members are invited to all events.
  - Invitations will come to CAC members soon. There will be a deadline for responding.
- Next core function coordinators will share goals and plans for this year.
- CAC members should ask questions and make recommendations.
- After we finish Academics, Service, Research, and Communication there will be time for open feedback

### 1:35 – 1:50 Academics Plan for This Year (JESSE)

Winnie was not present so Jesse shared academics goals and plan for this year (see CDCI Plan for this Year). Notes below summarize main feedback provided by CAC members.

- Goal 1: Support Think College
  - Matthew asked if Think College could be expanded beyond the University of Vermont? Could this be part of the Community College of Vermont?
    - Jesse said he would love for it to expand, but don't have capacity now.
    - Originally Think College Vermont started at UVM and Johnson State College (now part of Vermont State University).
  - Michael: Said there is an equity issue with accessing financial aid for these courses. This is something that should be recognized. And advocacy needed to fix the inequity.
- Goal 3: Diversity Equity and Inclusion in courses
  - Matthew: Data on equity is important inside and outside of the university. Important to make sure people from marginalized groups be more included. This is important ongoing work. Shared Vermont Department of Health is doing a statewide needs assessment they shares information on this.
- Goal 4 online courses
  - Michael: Believes should be offered at undergraduate and graduate levels. Also need to clearly share why disability studies is important for different fields and programs. When it is offered in vague ways it can be confusing. Need to see clearly how it fits with program and career paths. Ultimately would like to see a doctoral program in disability studies. Programs out there now are often not accessible or the curricula is not accessible.
  - Skye said area technical high schools could be a good place to think about for our academic's goals.



- Kirsten added that state is encouraging career pathways and pipelines at tech centers to help with shortages of personnel in human services.

## **1:50 – 2:05 Service Plan for This Year (JESSE)**

Maureen is brand new in her role, so Jesse shared community service goals and plan for this year (see CDCI Plan for this Year). Notes below summarize main feedback provided by CAC members.

- Goal 1: Vermont Leadership Series. Kirsten shared the Vermont Leadership series is an advanced training for people with disabilities and family members. It is being offered over two weekends in November and December. Focus is on policy and advocacy.
  - People are signing up this year already.
  - There will be a third weekend focused on self-advocates.
  - Originally Deborah Lisi-Baker at CDCI was part of sharing history of disability. There has been much less history in recent years. Want to explore how to offer this again in an accessible way.
  - Persephone shared there should be a second series that is more advanced. Kirsten said it's a good idea and has been challenge to recruit enough people to participate.

## **2:05 – 2:20 Research Plan for This Year (JESSE)**

CDCI has not hired a new research core function coordinator so Jesse shared research goals and plan for this year (see CDCI Plan for this Year). Notes below summarize main feedback provided by CAC members.

Goal 1: Collect and share data on needs in Vermont.

- Matthew: Vermont League of Cities and Towns is conducting a needs assessment. Also recommended Vermont Department of Health's needs assessment.

- Kirsten and Jesse have been discussing how to create survey that goes out statewide this Fall.

Goal 2: Write annual report on disability in Vermont.

- Kirsten and Jesse have also talked about what type of report would be helpful for lawmakers. Need it to be short and accessible.
- That is the goal for end of December 2024.
- More and longer reports can come later.

## **2:20 – 2:35 Communication Plan for This Year (AUDREY)**

Audrey led discussion on communication this year.

Goal 1: Help UVM create a policy on language access.

- This year working on a language access plan for CDCI.
- Using [Vermont Language Access Report](#) as guide.
- Making sure we have budget to pay for this work this year.

Goal 2: Redesign of CDCI websites

- More than 500 web pages need to be updated.
- Audrey thanked CAC members who have given feedback already.
- Audrey shared CAC feedback with UVM. Not all suggestions were approved. So, we are designing our own web pages to better fit what CAC and advocates have recommended.
- We will be asking for more feedback as we create the new web pages. This will be paid time for CAC members who want to take time to do this.

Goal 3: Podcasts

- First episode featured Mel Houser this year!

## **2:25 – 2:50 Open Feedback on Plan for This Year**

- Matthew: Think there are many programs and systems that do not have disability in mind. It is not easy to advocate for accessibility and people

with disabilities to lawmakers and business owners and others around Vermont.

- Skye shared an experience with a CDCI outreach project. She found a webinar that the Assistive Technology Project was leading. She thought the resources were good and nice to see CDCI project.
- Skye said we need one place where people can go to learn about disability and find resources. Kirsten shared that she and Jesse have been talking about a website that Tennessee created to share resources for people with disabilities. It is called [Tennessee Disability Pathfinder](#).
- Persephone asked if this was for some disabilities or all disabilities? Skye was recommending something more inclusive.
- Michael: Like to be part of helping with resource guide. Think it should be written at different reading levels to match different audiences. Also should have clear information about eligibility. That way easier to understand what is available.
- Persephone: Howard and UVM creating new programs for mental health urgent care.
- Jesse: Clarified CDCI is NOT creating pathfinder as part of this year's plan. CDCI IS interested in having a conversation with other people and groups to figure out how to help this move forward.
- Michael: Understand this will take many years to create. Could we create model or smaller steps to get there?

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

- No public comment or members of the public attended today.
- David shared great meeting. We got a lot done from the discussion and membership. He said it was a great opportunity being co-chair.
- Kirsten said thank you to community partners who stepped up to be co-chairs.

- Michael shared thanks for the warm welcome. He hopes it is a good transition. He appreciates how supportive CAC and CDCI have been.
- Matthew said thank you as well. See many future opportunities to expand our work and more partnerships. Many access needs across Vermont are not being met.

**The meeting ended at 2:55.**