

Community Advisory Council Meeting NOTES

June 28, 2023, 12-3pm

Agenda Summary

- 12:00-12:20 Welcome!
- 12:20-12:30 Questions to think about
- 12:30-1:15 Feedback on CDCI Year in Review
- 1:15-1:30 Take a break.
- 1:30-1:45 Icebreaker Activity: A Perfect World
- 1:45-2:45 More feedback on CDCI Year in Review
- 2:45-3:00 Discuss how the meeting went

Detailed Agenda

12:00-12:20 Welcome

- The meeting started at noon, but we needed to wait until we had a quorum (12:10).
- Members chose roles (see below).
- Members introduced themselves with names and pronouns.
- David asked members to share a celebration or something positive about [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Pride Month](#). Members shared many powerful examples. Some examples:
 - Going to Pride parades,

- Important advocacy by Vermont students.
- David shared he started the first group for
- Recent CDCI podcast with David who talked about Prideability.

• **VOTE: Do you approve minutes from March meeting?**

Name	Present	
David Frye, Co-Chair	Yes	Facilitator
Melissa Houser, Co-Chair	Yes	
June Bascom		
Hasan Ko	No	
Matthew LeFluer	Yes	Jargon buster
Kristofor Medina		
Kirsten Murphy	Yes	Keeper of the rudder
Lindsey Owen	Yes	Time keeper
Skye Peebles	Yes	Processor
Persephone Ringgenberg		
Michael Shor	Yes	Equalizer
Total 6 out of 11	55% of members	

12:20-12:30 Questions to think about

- Today we will focus on the CDCI Year in Review. We hope to get lots of feedback on this year.
- David planned an activity in the middle to give us a change.
 - The activity is to think about a perfect world.
 - **What can help make a perfect world?**
 - David will ask this after we come back from break.
- Each year we send people from CDCI to a national conference in DC. We cannot send everyone. **Are you interested in going to the conference in November?** If yes, please let Jesse know in June or July.

Skye said would be helpful to share what expectations would be for members. – Jesse said is flexible and will share.

Michael and Matthew are interested. Matthew shared important to help build equity.

VOTE

12:30-1:15 Feedback on CDCI Year in Review

- A “CDCI Year in Review” summary was sent to CAC members.
- Core function coordinators will share updates.
- CAC members should ask questions and give feedback.
- We will have about 20 minutes for each core function.
- We will start with Academics (Winnie) and Research (Jesse).

Feedback after priorities:

- Matthew – how combine 2&3 priorities? Concerned that local town are not meeting ADA requirements. School board members concerned.
- Michael –
 - shared as equalizer important to make short comments so everyone can share.
 - Appreciated good start for more teaching, especially for diversity.
 - How can we make our teaching plans more open and accessible? Michael shared he's had a mixed experience trying to provide input. He would like to provide more feedback on education at UVM and CDCI. Need to have more than one person providing feedback (i.e., more than NV).
 - Feel UVM administration is not very accessible and needs to do better. When working with CDCI, people get support for

- accessibility. However, when working with others on campus, it is very difficult.
- Some educational material may be missing controversy around ABA.
 - Mel: access to educational opportunities is a concern. Mentioned Global Disability Studies Course and Think College, cost money. Not having a residential option is a barrier. Mel agrees that many other programs are not accessible. Lot of rigidity from UVM in terms of forms and procedures. Gave example of immune compromised people to come in person on campus.
 - Skye: Lot of programs at UVM that people with disabilities would be interested in, not just disability studies. Mentioned that Think College is one way people with disabilities can learn about things going on. How can CDCI help make opportunities and programs more accessible.
 - Michael: Time soon for CDCI to reach out to all departments working on neurodevelopmental differences. Where are the connections to related programs like: psychology and social work? These connections could improve courses and create more community training opportunities.
 - Concerned that masters program is only online. This helps some people with disabilities, but it doesn't help others with disabilities.
 - Also true for events that don't have time for the less formal connections (e.g., ending online event immediately while people in person can still meet and talk).
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1:30-1:45 Icebreaker Activity: A Perfect World

- David will lead the icebreaker activity.
 - People are asked ***What can help make a perfect world?***
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- David invited people to share their thoughts about this question.
 - Michael said he would like to see customized employment as an option for more people with disabilities. Want to have secure and stable jobs that fit skills and desires.
 - Lindsey: Speaking up for each other and advocating for more support. It would look like a world with more acceptance and support. Sometimes we are made to feel we have no value if we are not productive all the time.
 - Kirsten thinking about housing in Vermont and what a struggle that is. Believe there should be a guaranteed income. Also healthcare and housing. Would provide so much freedom.
 - Mel people should not have to choose between health and community belonging. Still not safe for people who are immune compromised. Appreciated that ECHO center has required masks.
 - Matthew: Listening and understanding what access needs are for people. See systems not wanting to change, so stay ableist. Expectation in so many areas is that people need college degree to participate.

- David: My perfect world everything would be in plain language. Every year is a struggle to get funding for needed services. Budgets should fully support services needed.
- Adrienne: Inspired by community and belonging part of so many CAC members perfect world. Believe people need to have choice and invitations to belong. Need active invitations to community.

1:45-2:45 More feedback on CDCI Year in Review

- Core function coordinators will share updates.
- CAC members should ask questions and give feedback.
- **Jesse shared research summary.** Asked for feedback.
- Matthew: CDCI is making important progress. Very important that share information in plain language. Need to be very careful info is accessible.
- Michael: Believe that participatory action research on the UVM Autism Collaborative part of our Center's work. Those have been very interesting. Could inform other projects at CDCI. There should be more participatory action research on other projects. Need to find ways to include more people with disabilities in the design of research.
- Skye: Has CDCI created some kind of checklist or guide for how to make research accessible?

- **Adrienne shared Community Service priorities and updates.**
- Mel: Said support from Continence Project has been incredible. Adrienne emphasized that Vermont Medicaid will pay for diapers and pull-ups.
- Matthew: Shared he is now on Health Equity group at Vermont Department of Health. They are starting a pilot program and a TA survey. How will CDCI be part of that? Adrienne shared goal is to share more data from CDCI and partners.
- Michael: Very hard to know all the different services that are happening at CDCI – there are so many. How could participatory action research be more part of our services? Also how could community service projects be leveraged to do advocacy around state. Gave example for how could I-Team reduce ableism in VT schools?

- **Audrey shared Communication priorities and updates.**
- Accessible events guide was finished and has been used by at least 2 events at UVM.
- Community panels and events a
- PD
- Audrey thanked CAC for all the guidance this year.
- Questions / feedback:
- Matthew: Looks like good progress and need to have positive attitudes by leadership to get things done. Feels there is a message to everyone that Vermont is only for people who are college educated. That is ableist. Need to find ways to help

people understand that Vermont is ableist so we can build a better more equitable system.

- Michael: Communication from CDCI has made good progress. I was glad to be part of an interview. Not seeing bigger picture of disability in Vermont. Understand our communication is focused on work at the Center. Need to decide if also our role to communicate more broadly what's happening around Vermont. Agree with Matthew there are barriers for people with disabilities who have not gone to college. And recognize there are barriers for people with disabilities who do have a college education. May not have opportunities to apply their education.
- Skye: Excited Audrey connected with special interest group through our national network.
- David: Where are the recorded interviews shared? Audrey said they are on the CDCI YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@cdciuvweb> These interviews are the most popular videos we share. Next year goal is to share them as podcasts.
- **Jesse shared Infrastructure priorities and updates.**
- Matthew: Legislators need to know about this work? Jesse shared community needs assessment report released before legislative sessions.
- Michael: Could we do a survey of research and work at UVM that is focused on disability? Believe a lot of it is. For example, anything

medical, special education, social work etc. What % of grants are disability related? Knowing this could help people see how their work is related and could better engage them to work. How can we help coordinate researchers and forums.

- Skye: CDCI as “open door” to the rest of the university. Could use a “navigator” who understands accessibility and disability. Understands that this may not be a role at CDCI, and could be valuable.
- David: CDCI should do a class fair – what is available for people with disabilities.
- Matthew: Navigator or mentor who could understand you and your needs and help you take course.

2:45-3:00 Process and Next Meeting

- Discuss how the meeting went today.
- Decide what we should change for next meeting.

Skye shared meeting went well today. Appreciate work that went into creating a short summary of our work. Did get behind in the agenda before the break, but we still covered all the agenda items.

Matthew shared more work to do push for equity.

Michael wanted more time for reflection

At 3pm, the meeting will be over.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate you.
