

Community Advisory Council Feedback for People at CDCI

December 2025

December 2025 was the first time CAC members gave open feedback to people at CDCI. The feedback seemed to fit in 2 broad themes. The information below is what was shared with people at CDCI.

Service providers and professional development opportunities focus less on basic disability rights than they used to:

- “values informed training” is so far from typical direct staff training
- People with disabilities are not given the dignity of a adult life, they are treated like kids
- We’ve moved away from shared understanding about core values of disability rights. Wish that CDCI could do more to spread that message.
- When people try to educate others about rights, some assume these are just suggestions. Things like if you are in shared living you should have full control over who can visit, where and when you can leave, and you can eat whatever you want.
- Many don’t know self advocates exist in the disability community or the larger community

Strengths-Based Language:

- Language about disability matters and it can be difficult to know what to say. Just like people have different opinions about person-first or identity first

language, some think its helpful, and others think it's ableist to use terms like "high functioning autism."

- Advocates, families, and providers need to come together to discuss what language matters and should be used.
- Language should honor our strengths and disabilities at the same time - they impact each other.
- Don't be ableist about strengths. If providers don't understand strengths and needs, services are too focused on deficits.