

Center on Disability & Community Inclusion

Community Advisory Council Meeting

NOTES December 17, 2025,

Scheduled: 12-3pm Revised: 12-1:40pm

Several documents were shared in advance for this meeting.

- This agenda
- [September draft minutes](#)
- [Include! curriculum](#) (Winnie will discuss as part of academics update)
- [CAC Group Agreement](#)
- CAC Meeting Roles (see last page of this agenda)

REVISED Agenda Summary

12:00-12:30	Welcome & membership update
12:30-12:45	Federal funding quick update
12:45-1:00	Community Service updates
1:00-1:30	Sharing CAC feedback with people at CDCI
1:30-1:40	Public comment and discuss how meeting went

Meeting Notes

12:00-12:30 Welcome!

Updating today's agenda:

- Jesse shared Winnie unexpectedly could not join meeting today. She was going to lead to agenda items. They now need to be part of a future meeting. Jesse also has to leave early.
- CAC decided to hold a shorter meeting.
- Michael asked if there could be time at the end of the shorter meeting to have an open discussion. Yes.

Introductions

- Ocean asked everyone to:
 - Introduce themselves with names and pronouns,
 - Choose a meeting role (see table below), and
 - Share how they are doing.

VOTE: Do you approve minutes from September meeting?

- Kirsten made a motion to approve the minutes as shared. Audrey seconded the motion.
- There was no discussion and the September draft minutes were unanimously approved.

CAC membership update:

- Jesse shared there is 1 new application: Crista Yagjian, who is joining the meeting today as a member of the public.
- Next steps: Membership committee will schedule a meeting with Crista, then make recommendations to the CAC.
- Kirsten asked if another CAC member could join the committee. Kirsten and Matthew are on the committee. They shared what the committee does. Lindsey volunteered to join the membership committee.

- Jesse shared he has requested someone from Vermont Family Network join CAC as well.
- Jesse asked all members to ask 1 or 2 people to apply to CAC.

The table below shows who was present for the meeting and meeting roles chosen.

Council member	Present	Roles
Max Barrows	Not present	
Melissa Houser	Not present	
Audrey Homan	Yes	Jargon buster
Matthew LeFluer	Yes	Equalizer
Kirsten Murphy	Yes	Processor
Lindsey Owen	Yes	
Michael Shor Co-Chair	Yes	Co-facilitation
Summer Stelter	Not present	
Ocean Streeter Co-Chair	Yes	Facilitator
Total 6 out of 9	67% of current members	

CDCI Personnel Present: Rachel, Maureen, and Jesse

Member of the public: Crista Yagjian

12:30 – 12:45 Federal updates (Jesse)

- Jesse shared there are not many updates directly connected to CDCI.

- We recently received money that we did not spend last year. When we don't spend all of the money each year, we need to ask the federal government if we can use it in the next year. This is good news.
- Jesse also shared that a few other centers like ours will be applying for their 5-year grants soon. We hope to learn from them if there are changes from the last 5 year grant applications.
- Finally, Jesse shared our national association is raising money to hire a lobbyist to work in DC. CDCI does not have funding to contribute to this.

12:45 – 1:00 Community Service Updates

- Jesse shared will begin a search for a new I-Team director this Spring.
- Maureen shared topics being discussed with community service projects. Especially I-Team. Seeing more students being supported in alternative programs rather than being included in general education classrooms.
- Matthew asked what the CAC's role is in the new I-Team director search.
 - Rachel clarified the CAC membership committee is not responsible for the search.
 - There will be opportunities for CAC members to learn about people applying for the position and give feedback.
- Michael shared would help if we could discuss what we want related to inclusion. Thinks there should be systemic process for getting self-advocate perspective.

1:00 – 1:30 Sharing CAC feedback with CDCI (Maureen)

Jesse gave a quick introduction.

- Goal is to give council members an opportunity to say what they want people at CDCI to hear.
- We will share what you say with people at CDCI.
- Maureen said will bring it to project director meetings as well.
- Then we will report back to the CAC.

Open feedback from CAC members:

- Michael shared feel people don't know people like him exist. Misses the older term "pervasive developmental disorder" because felt it better explained his experience. Concern that when people don't understand his strengths and needs they don't provide needed supports.
- A related concern is the language we use. Said he knows people don't like the terms "high functioning" and "low functioning." But also want a way to talk about strengths without being seen as ableist or offensive.
- Matthew shared that people with disabilities often are not taken seriously. One solution is to have leadership positions around the state.
- Lindsey responded to Michael by saying Disability Rights Vermont is doing an Art and Advocacy Campaign. She said if self-advocates are open to doing a short interview and a short photo shoot, Disability Rights Vermont can share them broadly. She invited self-advocates to contact her to learn more.
- Kirsten shared that she and Jesse are working on a project asking for people to share their experiences. Hearing many stories about people not being respected. Would like CDCI to offer training on basic information about disability and especially key values of disability justice.
- Jesse shared great topic for conversation with Winnie about new trainings.
- Ocean shared he has been part of GMSA trainings on Home and Community Based Services setting rule for providers. He's heard directly that some people think rules are option to follow. Things like allowing people to eat when they want or have friends over.

1:30 – 1:40 Public comment and processing

- Public comment: Crista said nice to be hear, especially last agenda item.

- Kirsten as processor said went meeting went well. Thought energy really went up when open discussion started. Great job organizing us Ocean and Michael!
- Michael shared glad to have opportunity for open feedback. There is still not enough time to do this during CAC meetings, so want to create more opportunities to truly share. He invited people to stay after the CAC meeting if they wanted to keep talking. Kirsten said she would stay.
- Ocean suggested having the open time at the beginning of the meeting.
- Matthew said there was a lot of information today. Want to keep exploring how we can all share and be efficient.

At 1:40pm, the meeting ended.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate you.