Community Advisory Council Meeting

**March 22, 2023, 12-3pm**

**DRAFT NOTES**

Agenda Summary

* 12:00-12:20 Welcome!
* 12:20-1:15 New 5-year plan, questions, & feedback.
* 1:15-1:30 Take a break.
* 1:30-2:00 Choose a 1st round of small group discussion.
* 2:00-2:30 Choose a 2nd round of small group discussion.
* 2:30-2:50 Share what we learned in small groups.
* 2:50-3:00 Discuss how the meeting went.

## 12:00-12:20 Welcome

* The meeting began at noon.
* David started the meeting. He asked people to introduce themselves.
* The table below show which members were present.

| Name | Present |
| --- | --- |
| David Frye, Co-Chair | Yes |
| Melissa Houser, Co-Chair | Yes |
| June Bascom | Yes |
| Hasan Ko | Yes |
| Matthew LeFluer | Yes |
| Kristofor Medina | No |
| Kirsten Murphy | Yes |
| Lindsey Owen | Yes |
| Skye Peebles | Yes |
| Persephone Ringgenberg | No |
| Michael Shor | Yes |
| Arline Seiler | No |
| Total 9 out of 12 | 75% of members |

Several people from CDCI also attended: Jesse Suter, Valerie Wood, Adrienne Miao, Rachel Cronin, and Winnie Looby.

People volunteered for meeting roles:

* David: Facilitator
* Jesse: Note taker
* Hasan: Timekeeper
* Matthew: Equalizer
* Adrienne: Keeper of the Rudder
* Valerie: Jargon buster
* Kirsten: Processor

David made a motion to approve the December minutes. They were unanimously approved by members present (9 out of 9).

## 12:20-1:15 New 5-Year Plan

* Jesse shared a summary of what was learned from community needs assessment.
* He started by thanking CAC members and CDCI core function coordinators. Everyone’s feedback and work helped us submit the plan late last month.
* He said the summary today is what we have learned so far. There is a lot of information collected and we are still learning from it.
* Here are the top needs for people with disabilities we heard:
  + **Access to effective services for all ages.** Most people said they receive the services they need *sometimes* or *never*.
  + **Specific services that many talked about are:** 
    - Mental health
    - Healthcare
    - Early intervention and early childhood
    - Inclusive education
  + **Supports for independent living: Housing, transportation, and employment.** Housing was talked about the most in our survey.
  + **Accessibility.** Many people said they face accessibility problems. People mentioned problems getting around, communicating, and understanding information given to them.
  + **To be understood and treated fairly by providers and public.** People feel ignored, excluded, and discriminated against.
* **After sharing this summary, CAC members gave feedback.**
  + Several members agreed there are many needs. Some members called it a real crisis.
  + Michael said that it can be hard for people with disabilities to talk about what is not working.
    - They may not know who they should talk with.
    - It can be frustrating they share their concerns but nothing happens.
    - Said that people with disabilities are asked about needs a lot. Not fair to ask for their time if it won’t help them directly.
  + Several members said that legislators need this information.
    - They need to understand what is not working when they write new laws.
    - Several members said need people with time to gather and share this information.
    - Some also said that legislators are given data but it doesn’t always help. How can we help them really understand the needs?
  + Another need was for information on services available.
    - What can we do tell help people understand and navigate services?
    - So much expertise around the state. How can we share resources and not duplicate effort?
    - Kirsten shared the VT Developmental Disabilities Council wants to help create a new website. It help people learn about services.
    - Adrienne and Jesse shared they know Tennessee and Indiana created resources like this.
      * It took a lot of time and money. And those states had to work together so they did not duplicate efforts.
      * Those states started by finding all the websites that listed resources. There were many errors and duplication.
    - Skye: Vermont had an initiative on this: [Aging & Disability Resource Connections-No Wrong Door](https://asd.vermont.gov/services/adrc-nwd). Kirsten shared she believed the funding ended.
    - Michael: People with disabilities have to be part of ideas like this. This will help make sure they will be accessible and be used. And need real support so these projects don’t come and go. This includes employment. Is there a clear career path and expectations?
* Jesse shared plan to continue the community needs assessment. First goal is to share a draft in September for feedback. Then share report in December in time for legislators.
  + Matthew: It will be important for legislators to have this before the session and for cross-over.
  + Michael: Need to ask people, what info do they need to make decisions.

**1:15-1:30 Break**

## 1:30-2:00 Small group discussions: ROUND 1

* Members were asked to choose a small group discussion.
* Valerie, Adrienne, Rachel, and Jesse briefly said what the topics for each group would be:

1. Teaching
2. Community Services
3. Research
4. Communications

* Then members moved into small groups.

## 2:00-2:30 Small group discussions: ROUND 2

At 2, members were invited to pick a new group. Some changed groups and some stayed.

**2:30-2:50 Share what you learned in your two small groups.**

* After the small groups ended. CDCI core function coordinators shared summaries of what they learned.
  + Valerie. For research, people want to join groups on specific topics. Want more time to learn about our work.
  + Jesse: For teaching, people want us to make our teaching more open for community members. There is a lot of good training out there already. How can we help people find it and learn from it?
  + Adrienne: For community service, they talked about how CDCI asks about disability. Need to consider how to make questions accessible. Consider using visuals. Recommend using identity questions and open responses. Do not use long checklists or ask for medical information if not needed.
  + Rachel shared there was lots of good feedback for newsletter for Audrey.
* Next, members were invited to share what they learned in small groups.
  + Kirsten – Need for better access to state public datasets. It can be hard to access the data. And state agencies may not have the time to analyze and share. Need researchers to have access.
  + Michael: Said we should have a data repository that can provide access. It should be accessible for people with disabilities and not just university researchers.
  + Jesse shared that UVM does have some resources that could help this.
  + Matthew: Communications, need more ways to engage people. Plain and boring information can be barriers. How can university, legislators, and state agencies work together to share and learn from data?

## 2:50-3:00 Process and Next Meeting

1. Discuss how the meeting went today.
2. Decide what we should change for next meeting.
3. Sign up for meeting roles.

* As processor, Kirsten shared she thought the small groups were successful! Many members agreed. Kirsten said the preparation for the topics really helped make it accessible.
* Kirsten said helpful to have materials ahead of time.
* Michael: How can we get more people from UVM join our meetings? Especially social workers.
* People declined to choose roles for the next meeting.

David thanked everyone and ended the meeting at 3pm.

Thank you for your time. We appreciate you.