

Creative Ways to Form an Inclusive Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Based on a Relationship of Reciprocity

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CAC MEMBERS

Family members, self-advocates and providers:
 Northern Regional Team: (5) five members
 Southern Regional Team: (5) five members
 Metro Regional Team: (11) eleven members

INNOVATIVE STRUCTURE



Two in person meetings yearly where CAC members share critical information about the needs of their community.



Members are placed in regional teams and meet quarterly via telehealth.

LOCATION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY MEMBERS



NM CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT & DISABILITY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Center for Development & Disability (CDD) polled members of our previous Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) to elicit feedback about the workings of the CAB. Member's input included:

- ❖ Confusion about their roles
- ❖ Large meetings not useful for information dissemination
- ❖ CAB not truly representative of New Mexico population (lack of rural representation)

CDD Leadership proposed a reformed and transformed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that would be dynamic and diverse. Our intent for the CAC is that it:

- ❖ Represents the state of New Mexico in Diversity
- ❖ Represents a wide variety of perspectives
- ❖ Informs and influences CDD priorities
- ❖ Supports efforts of inclusive communities statewide
- ❖ Identifies CAC members as leaders within their communities around issues that influence their lives and those with disabilities.

CDD leadership recruited new members from our Partners in Policymaking graduates. The CDD has graduated approximately 175 Partners in the past 7 years. CDD leadership envisioned participation on the Community Advisory Committee as an avenue for members to use and enhance leadership skills in order to inform the CDD's work and influence positive change in our state.

Meetings are structured in such a way as to create dialogue with the committee members; emphasis is less on formal presentations regarding program activities of the CDD than on conversations that allows CDD leadership the opportunity to align Center activities with needs identified within the state. Consequently, there is a growing atmosphere of collaboration and reciprocity between CDD leadership and community advisory members.

CREATIVE APPROACHES

- 1) Recruitment from Partners in Policymaking graduates
- 2) Use of telehealth for quarterly meetings
- 3) Formation of small, regional teams
- 4) Commitment to enhancing the leadership skills of the CAC
- 5) Promotion of the CAC as an extension of the CDD throughout New Mexico

ENHANCING REGIONAL LEADERS

The CDD has been intentional in efforts to connect the CAC to other advocate and leadership opportunities. Some examples:

- Support for the CAC to attend the 2018 Statewide Summit on Advocacy sponsored by the NM Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- Attendance at a Center Resource Fair to raise awareness of the variety of services, programs, and resources available to the statewide community.
- Support for two CAC members to present a poster at the 2018 AUCD Annual Meeting
- Report by CAC members attending the 2018 AUCD Annual Meeting to the larger group on information gleaned from the meeting
- Commitment by CDD leadership for continued support of CAC members to attend leadership forums both in New Mexico and nationally

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS



Our members are recognized advocates and leaders throughout the state. Above is a snapshot of their affiliations.