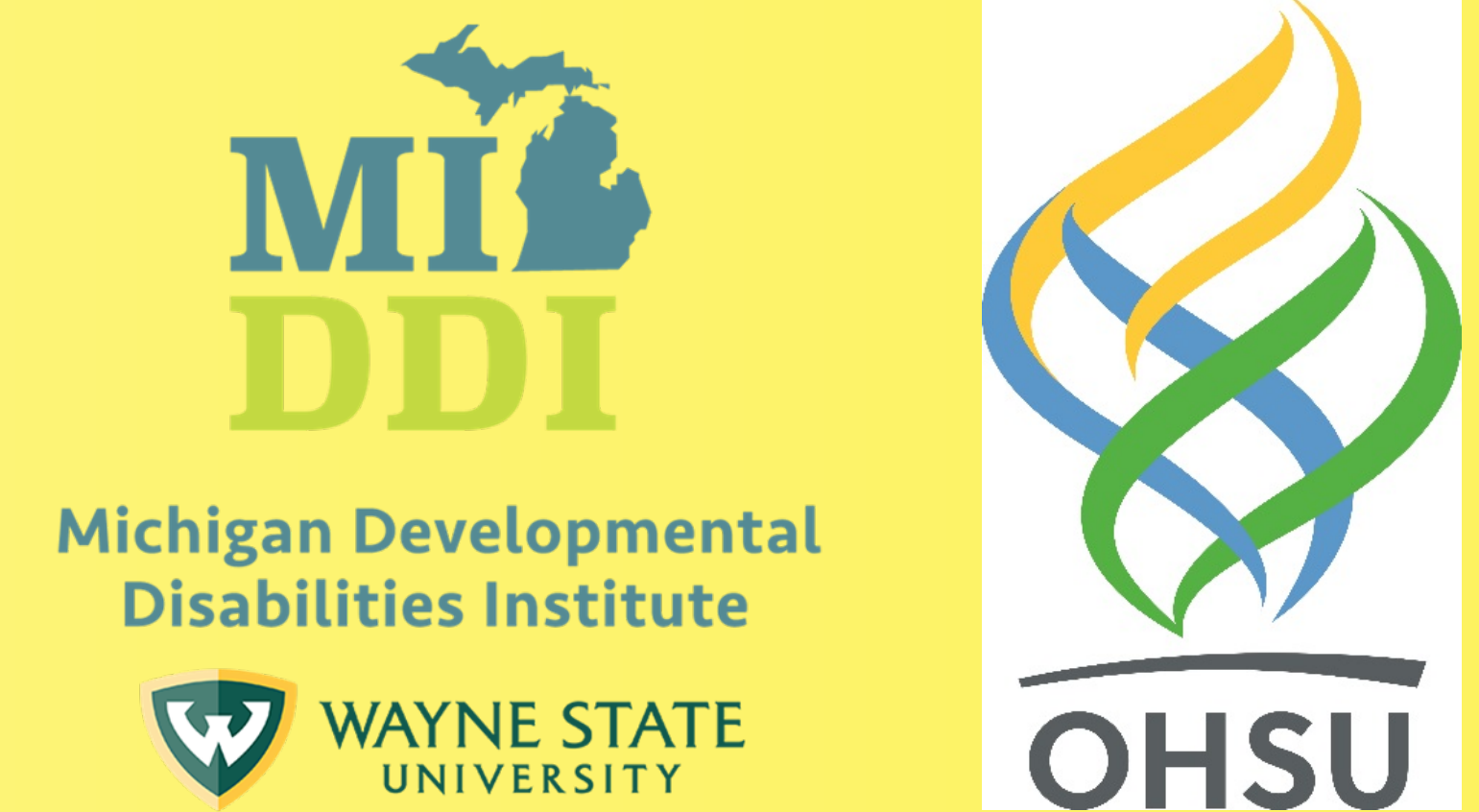


# Leading Change Together with our Community Advisory Councils

Wayne State University UCEDD: Sharon Milberger, ScD

OHSU UCEDD: Larissa Yoshino, MPH; Joseph T Basey, CPC Chair; Sherri Osburn, CPC Treasurer; and Rhonda M Eppelsheimer, MSW

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## Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute Community Advisory Council

### About the Council

The CAC advises MI-DDI in the development and implementation of our 5-year plan in accordance with the DD Act.

- 19 members including self-advocates, family members, DD network agencies, professionals, community organizations, health systems, and universities
- Meets at least 3 times/year



### Connection and Community



“Being a part of the CAC for me it is to advocate and learn more. I like that everybody works together to help each other solve problems with new ideas.”  
*David Taylor, CAC member*

Strategies to encourage board member engagement include:

- Newly updated plain language council operational rules
- Meeting information provided in advance in accessible formats
- Satisfaction surveys completed at end of every meeting seeking input on how to improve meetings
- Using technology to increase accessibility
- Open and respectful discussions
- Lunch provided
- Transportation provided, as needed

### Partnership and Progress

The CAC and the UCEDD collaborate to support community-based organizations to provide relevant programming for people with disabilities and their families:

- CAC members participate on the Community Supports Council
- CAC members participate on the Education Council
- CAC members engage in MI-DDI research projects
- CAC members provide input into state DD Network activities including the Community of Practice on Culturally and Linguistic Competency

### Hurdles and Humility

- Onboarding new CAC members
- Balance between providing background info/updates and engaging in interactive discussion
- Keeping CAC members engaged in between meetings

For more information visit [www.mididi.wayne.edu](http://www.mididi.wayne.edu)

## Oregon Health & Science University UCEDD Community Partners Council

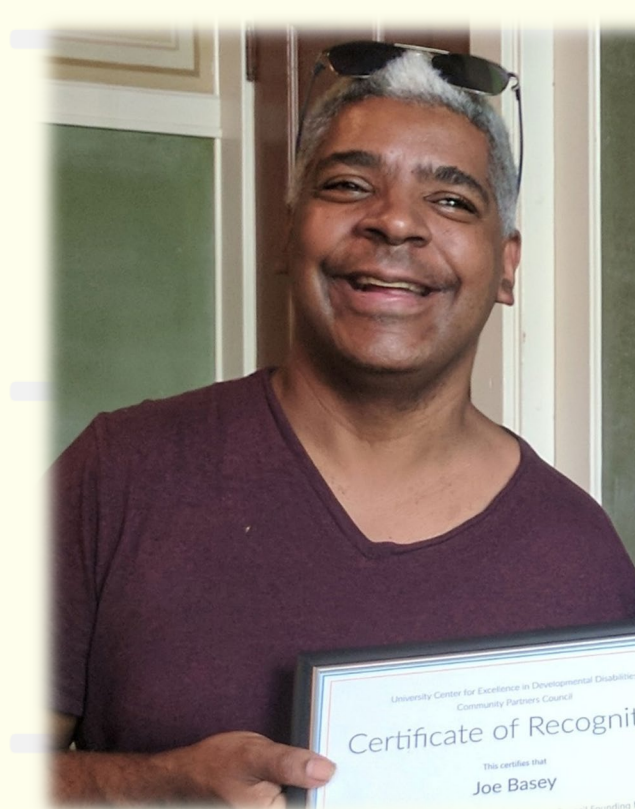
### About the Council

The council members serve to represent the voices and needs of Oregonians with disabilities, and their friends, families, and supporters.

- 10 community members, 4 officer roles
- Includes self-advocates, parents, and DD network agencies and network partners
- Meets quarterly, provide input on planning, strategies, and evaluation
- Co-implementation of 1 joint project: Community Engagement Grant Program



### Connection and Community



“...the ability to impact and improve the quality of life for Oregonians with disabilities. -Joe Basey, CPC Chair



“I like to help people, that is what I want to do.” -Sherri Osburn, CPC Treasurer

Strategies to encourage board member engagement include:

- Plain language council membership manual
- Accessible agenda with prompt questions to prepare for the meeting
- Pre-meeting information provided in multiple accessible formats (in person review, large print, plain language documents, audio, electronic, paper)
- Meetings are interactive and led by the Council members
- Dedicated resources, human and financial, that supports the council’s effort
- Ongoing discussion of how we can continually improve our time together
- Decisions made through respectful lively discussion and debates
- Culture of empathy and being considerate of what each member contributes

### Partnership and Progress

The Council and the UCEDD collaborate to support community-based organizations to provide relevant programming for people with disabilities and their families:

- Co-developed the Community Engagement Grant program activating the community to meet needs related to spirituality, sibling support, and health promotion
- Council members receive training to review grant applications and make decisions on which projects are funded
- Provided 35 grants to Oregon non-profits since 2013 of an average \$1000 each
- Over **4000** people impacted (Children, Adults, Caregivers, Professionals, and more)

### Hurdles and Humility

Developing our council is a process of growth and change that is ongoing. Challenges and learning includes:

- Being responsive to members needs and offering a variety of ways to participate
- Streamlining council activities to align with the DD act
- Shifting focus from informing the council about our work to engaging members’ expertise to define progress, and understand what is important to the community

The UCEDD is part of the OHSU Institute on Development and Disability  
For more information visit [www.ohsu.edu/ucedd](http://www.ohsu.edu/ucedd)

## University of Cincinnati UCEDD Community Advisory Committee

### About the Council

The council advises the UCEDD in meeting its responsibilities in accordance with the DD Act. The CAC is an integral part of the UCEDD and is guided by by-laws developed by the CAC.

- 28 members, 1 Chair and 1 Vice Chair
- Self-Advocates, family members, DD Network partners, professionals from agencies, county boards, community organizations, hospital and University
- Quarterly CAC meetings with policy & project updates



UCEDD CAC members  
2019-2020

### Connection and Community



“As a member of the CAC, I’ve been inspired, encouraged and included on projects. I provide care for my grandchildren and have a disability, so transportation is critical for me. I recently experienced an issue with transportation and because of what I’ve learned as part of the CAC, I was able to contact the UCEDD and Disability Rights Ohio to help me get it resolved.”  
- Angela Taylor, CAC member (pictured left with her grandson)

Strategies to encourage CAC member engagement include:

- Lunch provided
- Color-coded materials, including visual supports, for meetings
- Peer-to-peer and staff support during meetings
- Input of CAC members on meeting agenda
- CAC activity at each meeting
- Open and respectful discussions

### Partnership and Progress

- LEND family trainees and self advocate trainees have become UCEDD CAC members and vice versa
- CAC members engage in research projects of the UCEDD
- CAC members partner outside of the UCEDD meetings
- CAC member involved with AUCD Council on Leadership in Advocacy (COLA)

### Hurdles and Humility

- Varied interests and abilities of CAC members
- Balance between informing and engaging
- Timing of planning and input for CAC meetings

Affiliations

1. Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
  2. University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics
- For more information, visit: [www.ucedd.org](http://www.ucedd.org)