

**The University of Maine
Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies
Maine's University Center for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities
Community Advisory Committee**

By Laws

Revised January 2004

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the committee shall be The University of Maine Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCI), Community Advisory Committee, hereafter referred to as the CAC. This committee is the officially designated "consumer advisory committee" established in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act 2000)

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 1. Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies (CCI), University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

The University of Maine's Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies, Maine's UCEDD, is part of a national network of UCEDDs sponsored by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and authorized through the DD Act of 2000. The purpose of the UCEDD is to provide leadership in, advise Federal, State, and community policymakers about, and promote opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

As a UCEDD, the Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies has the following responsibilities: Interdisciplinary Undergraduate and Graduate

Education, Community Outreach Education and Technical Assistance, Research and Policy Analysis, and Dissemination of Information and Research.

Section 2. The Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies,
Community Advisory Committee

The purpose of CAC is to advise the CCI Director that supports the Center in meeting its responsibilities in accordance with the DD Act of 2000.

Section 3. Roles and Responsibilities of the Community Advisory Committee.

The Community Advisory Committee:

1. Consults with the CCI Director regarding the development of the UCEDD's five (5) year plan.
2. Reviews and comments annually on the Center's progress in meeting the projected goals contained in the five (5) year plan.
3. Makes recommendations to the CCI Director regarding any proposed revisions of the five (5) year plan.
4. Meets, as necessary, to carry out the role of the Committee, but at least twice a year.
5. Develops an overall understanding of the Center and its work.
6. Advocates for, and on behalf of, the Center and its work.
7. Supports and contributes to development activities of the Center.
8. Advises and informs the CCI Director regarding other relevant organizations, programs, networks or activities that may provide opportunities for Center collaboration.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Membership

Members must have a commitment to be actively involved in the performance of the required activities listed in the roles and responsibilities of the CAC (Article II, Section 3). A majority of the members shall be individuals with developmental disabilities and family members of such individuals. Upon request, the Center shall provide individual accommodation to support full participation of all members.

Section 2. Composition

A. Membership shall consist of:

- Individuals with developmental disabilities and related disabilities, including a youth or young adult
- Family members of individuals with developmental disabilities
- A representative of Maine Disability Rights Center
- A representative of Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
- A representative of Maine's statewide self-advocacy organization, Speaking Up for Us (SUFU).

And representatives of organizations that may include:

- Private nonprofit groups concerned with providing services for individuals with disabilities including developmental disabilities
- A parent representative from the parent training and information center, Maine Parent Federation
- Representatives from relevant state agencies
- Other community members interested in supporting the Center and its work.

B. The CAC shall reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the State.

Section 3. Number

The CAC will have a minimum membership of fifteen (15) people.

Section 4. Term of Membership

Membership terms are for three (3) years. Terms will be staggered in such a manner that one-third of the membership will be selected each year.

Section 5. Nomination and Selection of Membership

An ad hoc Nominating Committee will recommend new members to the full CAC who will advise the CCI Director on membership. Individuals whose terms have expired may be re-nominated upon the recommendation of the nominating committee.

ARTICLE IV

Operation of Advisory Council

Section 1. Operating year and annual meeting

- A. The operating year for the CAC shall coincide with the UCEDD Core grant year of July 1 through June 30.

Section 2. Meetings

- A. The CAC shall meet at least twice a year. Members are expected to attend all meetings. If a member misses two consecutive meetings, she/he may be asked to step off the CAC and his/her name will be removed from the list of members. Additional meetings may be called by the CCI Director in consultation with the Chair.
- B. Ad hoc committees of the CAC will meet as necessary. Alternative meeting formats for ad hoc committee are encouraged (i.e. conference calls, email, "piggy-backing" with regular meetings, etc.)
- C. The CAC will make decisions through consensus, recognizing that the Chair may utilize alternative decision making strategies including, as necessary, calling for a majority vote.

Section 3. CAC Member Remuneration

- A. Members shall not be paid compensation, but mileage reimbursement and overnight accommodation, as required, and expenses will be made at the University rate and meals will be provided during regularly scheduled meetings, as appropriate.

- B. Individual consumer and family members may also be reimbursed for child care costs, lost wages, and/or personal assistant support services consistent with federal and University requirements.
- C. Appropriate individual accommodation shall be provided to assure access to and participation of all CAC members.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Committees

Section 1. Leadership

- A. The Chair shall provide leadership to the CAC. She/he shall preside at all meetings of the CAC. The Chair shall appoint the members of all committees of the CAC. She/he shall sign all documents requiring the Chair's signature and shall perform all other duties incidental of the office. A vacancy of the Chair occurring due to illness, death or other circumstance resulting in an incapacity to fulfill required duties, shall be filled by the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall complete the term of the Chair.
- B. Vice Chair shall assist the Chair as needed and shall, in the absence of the Chair, assume necessary responsibilities. A vacancy of the Vice chair shall be filled through an election for a new full two (2) year term.
- C. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be nominated from the CAC membership by an ad hoc Nominating Committee and shall serve for a two (2) year term. Election by the CAC membership should take place at the Annual Meeting.
- D. The CCI Director will appoint a member of the CAC to represent CCI on the Association of University Centers and Disabilities (AUCD) Council on Consumer Affairs (COCA).

Section 2. Committees

Ad hoc committees will be identified as needed by the CAC, appointed by the Chair and given a specific charge.

