

**WIND Advisory Committee
Meeting Booklet
April 13, 2021**



WIND Advisory Committee Function

1. Connect WIND to key individuals in the university and in the state who can assist in carrying out WIND's education, research and service missions;
2. Help WIND expand its resource base;
3. Increase WIND's visibility within the university and within the state to assist WIND in becoming more integrated in both;
4. Advise WIND on overall annual program goals; and
5. Increase disability awareness on campus and throughout the state.

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Meeting Details

The WIND Consumer Advisory Council Meeting, WIND Advisory Board Meeting will be held online on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 through Zoom videoconferencing.

Distance Connection: To set up a free Zoom account:

<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98486540067>

- Go to www.zoom.us and enter your email address in the center of the screen
- Click on "Sign Up Free"
- The application will send you an E-mail to confirm your account set up
- Enter the **Meeting ID:** [98486540067](https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98486540067)

To join the meetings via an existing Zoom account:

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WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

12:50 p.m. Link via Zoom - <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98486540067>

1:00 p.m. Welcome, David Jones, Dean, College of Health Sciences

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of prior meeting notes
- Welcome new member:
Eleanor Downey, MSW, PhD; Director, UW Division of Social Work
- Introductions with agency/organization updates, All
- University of Wyoming & College of Health Sciences updates

1:30 p.m. Meeting orientation, booklet, and WIND updates, Sandy Root-Elledge

1:45 p.m. WIND 5-Year Plan Needs Assessment review, Eric Moody

2:00 p.m. WIND Needs Assessment:

Small Group Discussions ways in which key topics can be integrated into WIND
5 Year
Plan, 2022-2027

1. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Michelle Jarman

2:35 p.m. WIND Needs Assessment:

Small Group Discussions ways in which key topics can be integrated into WIND
5 Year Plan, 2022-2027

2. Family Voice, Canyon Hardesty

3:10 p.m. Large group discussion, Eric Moody

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021
from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

April 13, 2021

Join Via: <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98486540067>

or call 1-669-900-6833 and use meeting ID: [984 865 40067](https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98486540067)

10:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions, Sandy Thiel, Chairperson, Consumer Advisory Council
Sandy Root-Elledge, Executive Director, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
Sandy Hubert, Coordinator, WIND Consumer Advisory Council

Introductions of members and guests

10:15 a.m. Membership Recruitment, Orientation and Mentorship Planning

11:00 a.m. Ryan Rausch, MOT, OTR, ATP, Assistive Technology Professional

WyRamp Project presentation and update on Tech2Connect

12:55 p.m. WIND CAC members will join the meeting with the WIND Advisory Council

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes November 17, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom

In attendance:

Committee Members:

Samantha Andrew
Julie Andrew
Danielle Marks
Chele Porter
Kylie Porter
David Jones - Advisory Committee Chair
Tammy Aumiller
Lori Regnier
Margee Robertson
Aleyta Zimmerman
Sam Myers
Emily Monago
Nicky Harper
Amy Burns
Bill McDonald
Sandy Theil - CAC Chair
Lee Grossman
Jennifer Tatro

WIND Faculty, Affiliated Faculty and Staff:

Mandi Larson
David Heath
Betsy Bress
Eric Moody
Michelle Jarman
Wendy Warren
Canyon Hardesty
Sandy Hubert
Sandy Root-Elledge
Cari Glanz
Cheryl Chesebro
Kayleigh Holmes

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Dr. David Jones, Dean of the College of Health Sciences. Members introduced themselves and provided updates from their respective organizations.

Dr. Jones thanked everyone for attending. He welcomed new members - Amy Burns and Danielle Marks and welcomed guest Margee Robertson filling in for Shelley Hamel, both from the Wyoming Department of Education.

Julie Andrews reported that much of Casper is currently shut down because of Covid (day 8 of being positive herself) and nothing else to report community-wise.

Chele Porter is a parent of a child with disabilities. Kylie (daughter) has had some issues with being confined due to the pandemic. Community events such as disabilities awareness training opportunities are available. The assistive technology Lemon Law became stagnant because the representative was not re-elected, hopefully the law will come up again this legislative session. No funding is attached, just having the law on the books is important for assistive technology users. She is puzzled why Medicaid in Wyoming does not allow AT devices

(only state in US). No funding is available, there is no reason why Medicaid can't cover these devices. She encouraged members to write to their legislators.

Aleyta Zimmerman reported WyAble accounts now number 285 and added that the stimulus package helped get a lot of people onboard. The council provided a number of resources and paperwork during October. The Governor's Council is still hoping to be able to hold the developmental disabilities conference in June in-person.

Amy Burns reported that Wyoming Independent Living provides core services across disabilities, across age to anyone eligible. They offer advocacy support, especially if people are getting stuck in the various systems they need to navigate. They also provide bigger picture advocacy, including working with local housing authorities and the legislature. They also will work with individuals providing 1-on-1 for skills training and getting people connecting with the community. She's been with the agency for 12 years and is excited to be on this council. Would like to build upon collaborations and opportunities with WIND, WATR and assistive technology.

Nicky Harper reported her agency, DVR, is having daily Covid updates and they continue to participate and collaborate with different agencies. They are working on an Innovation Workshop, collaborating with UW College of Engineering to create a self-paced project with the Maker Spaces; disability students will have employment opportunities through this partnership.

Tammy Aumiller is a special education teacher in Laramie working with the transition program. She emphasized that in-person learning is especially important.

Emily Monago reported that her department has one staff member who does all the hiring and was just appointed to WYOPS, employment for disabilities. They are excited about UW having a greater voice by having a UW member on the board. Her department has also been working on "Cut-out" signage on sidewalks and making them more accessible. Funding is in partnership with Transpark - \$5k - \$10k/cutout to have sidewalks more be more accessible, we are double checking those amounts. Emily also mentioned recent Educational Town halls - where a book is selected to try and leverage our learning opportunities (LinkedIn), the book is coupled with LinkedIn videos. Webinar is also in LinkedIn. Encourage your Units to participate, anyone can join. Will get out information for the next session. *Added after meeting - Dr. Emily Monago wanted to recognize and thank Dr. Michelle Jarman for providing a tour of the WIND Facilities on October 21, 2020 for Emily and Dr. Charlene Alexander. Dr. Alexander is the vice president and chief diversity officer at Oregon State University and Emily's mentor for the National Association of Diversity Officers CDO Fellows Program for 2020-2021.

Review and approval of agenda: Agenda approved

Review and approval of prior meeting notes: Meeting notes approved

University of Wyoming - College of Health Sciences (CHS) updates:

Discussion about Covid issues in terms of education and services. UW/CHS had to pivot very quickly with going virtual with our classes. UW has shown a lot of leadership in the community by producing hand sanitizer and students in WWAMI volunteering to screen patients coming into the clinics and hospitals. Telehealth exploded in the state - WYTN has provided opportunities to medical providers to provide telehealth services across the state. At first it grew very slowly - 500 providers before Covid, now it's up to 2000, this need will do nothing but increase over time. CHS is quite involved with the task force on Telehealth and was instrumental

with the state. CHS really tried to be the conduit for providers all over the state and we hope to continue and gain momentum. Students need to learn telehealth medicine as well. Some have already been doing it while others have started to pick up on it. Thank you to WIND for the access and how to provide telemedicine.

The campus continues to deal with Covid. UW is part of the 2% of colleges that are testing students 2x/week and employees 1x/wk. UW almost made it to thanksgiving break through this testing, but we started to see a surge about a week ago and it was determined to send the students home a week early (the healthy ones). The testing effort has largely been a successful and we will continue to test up to the winter break and will start up again in the Spring. There are many people involved in making this happen, it has been a successful and tiresome effort. Many of you on the call have been through the testing, it is a great benefit for employees to be able to test once/week. However, the Covid stresses to the state budget are pretty significant. The budget reductions are coming in phases, \$42M total - Phase one has already taken place, CHS's cut is \$900k - not including Residency or WWAMI. WIND does not have much funding from the state, which is sometimes a good thing. We now know another phase is coming - exact amount is not known yet, but we know it will be coming. UW is reviewing 16 academic programs and will either reduce or consolidate. There is already talk about another round of cuts coming in the spring. UW will look a lot different due to the severity of their budget reductions. It is difficult to look at our programs because we supply the health care work force for WY, hopefully the University understands that.

We are quite aware the Department of Health is being hit pretty hard by budget reductions as well, there will be another round of reductions coming from them as well. We have reached out to try to partner with them to face these challengers together, hopefully it will help the State and Department moving forward.

Meeting orientation and WIND updates:

Sandy Root-Elledge recognized the Dean for his leadership and support of WIND as well as his role in the Covid Testing Program. The Dean was in charge of the whole testing program at UW, he has 2 full time jobs right now.

WIND is still working remotely for the most part, some people in-person, but no in-person services currently. WIND received a new award - the Heywood Foundation award is awarded every 2 years. The award will assist with increasing student telehealth training and will be facilitated by WIND.

Sandy Root-Elledge pointed out some specific pages in the Meeting booklet:

Pg. 14 - WIND has a number of new staff

Pg. 16 - Eric Moody provided an overview (summary and highlights of WIND work in 2020), the full annual report to the funders has much more detail, but we are all like the summary infographic.

Pg. 30 - Picture of our funding after the fact, and we surpassed \$5M for the first time, which is very exciting.

Pg. 31 - We pulled together WIND's contributions such as presentations, publications and service.

Pg. 38 - List of awards WIND Faculty, Staff and Students have won, we are very proud of the performance and kudos to Michelle, Eric Moody and Canyon Hardesty, we couldn't do it without them. This is really important for our next 5-year plan.

WIND 5-year plan needs assessment:

Eric Moody discussed the process for break-out rooms for discussions on WIND's next 5-year plan.

WIND's Core funding is on a 5-year funding cycle and we need to start thinking about the next 5 years so we can develop plans to help with those issues that are identified across the state. Around year 3.5 or 4 we start going out into the community and conduct interviews, surveys, and questionnaires. We ask specific questions such as what are you seeing in your community? Dave Heath has been interviewing like crazy and a graduate assistant is combing through databases. What is happening with health care? What are the employment needs? We then collate this information and we come up with the needs of the state. Our resources are people and funding - how do we address the needs? We can't do everything, but we can do some things - which will become our goals for the next 5 years. We will then measure ourselves against these goals as well as figuring our strategy for the next 5 years. We have heard for self-advocates, but now we want to hear from agency staff - what is happening at the state level? Today we have matched all of you with your area of expertise and we have created break-out rooms based on those areas. Groups will discuss their particular area; each group will have a facilitator as this is meant to be a discussion. Each group will also have a note taker so we can take down as much info as possible, please be as honest and open as you can. Canyon has also set up Jamboard, which is a tool to help gather thoughts and information. The facilitator will put Jamboard in the chat and you can start taking notes there and it will also become a written record of the topic.

Eric Moody walked through how to use Jamboard very briefly.

Break-out sessions conducted and concluded

Needs assessment discussed with the larger group, summarized each area of emphasis.

Summaries from Eric

Sandy Root-Elledge discussed what to in April for the next WIND Advisory Council meeting.

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes: Breakout Room Summaries November 17, 2020

1) Education/Educational Services:

What has been working well?

- K-12
- Increase in inclusion and being in the least restrictive environment possible
- Greater variety of educational services offered
- Better coordination and communication between schools/families/caregiver

Areas of improvement

- Post-secondary transitions and support
- Fear of stigma - students are afraid of being associated with disability/needing add'l services
- University system is more complex
- Students have to advocate for themselves and express their needs

2) Early Childhood/Early Intervention

What has been working well?

- Strong screening programs for newborns
- Well-child doctor visits are happening
- Self-care for families and caregivers

Areas of improvement

- Need for more evaluation and early intervention - a lot of kids are being missed
- Need better assessment tools to evaluate child (more school psychologists)
- De-stigmatize children having mental health issues. Solution could be to focus on mental health in a positive way using strengths-based language and peer mentoring
- Funding cuts and impacts, concerns and opportunities with the pandemic
- Virtual learning creates less one-on-one attention for kids with disabilities
- Families have needed different supports than before with virtual learning
- Budget cuts have been steep and difficult to manage. Solution could be to increase collaboration so we don't replicate services

3) Employment

What has been working well?

- Community resources are going well. Companies are trying to find vocational opportunities to meet the needs of the individual
- Services are based on students' need and abilities
- Having a good case manager is critical

Areas of Improvement

- Job coaches are doing too much and not allowing enough independence for the individual
- Families need more education about what happens when individuals age out of system
- Lack of training for both mentors and employers

Ideas/Solutions to address needs

- Mentors for families
- Working on networking as a gateway to employment
- Mini-lessons for employers and employees on how to work with those with disabilities

4) Health and Wellness

What has been working well?

- Behavioral health has become more integrated into primary care settings
- Increased opportunities for telehealth
- Greater awareness about need for mental health services
- More opportunities for physical activities

Areas of Improvement

- Access to health care, especially mental health care
- Lack of nursing support
- Collaboration when there is significant geographical distance

Ideas/Solutions to address needs

- Shared network to improve local outcomes
- Greater amount of transitional housing
- Mental health: specific waiver to support serious mental illness, mobile crisis intervention
- Smart home technology to increase level of independence

5) Housing, Transportation, Recreation

What has been working well?

- Successes seem to be community-based, rather than a statewide
- Many communities have expanded opportunities for recreation and transportation

Areas of Improvement

- New construction for housing that continues to be inaccessible
- Funding for transportation
- Housing costs in certain areas are unaffordable to people with disabilities

Ideas/Solutions to address needs

- Working with builders before housing is built with inaccessible designs
- Education for landlords on accessibility requirements

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Background

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and an academic unit in the College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming.

Established in 1994, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities demonstrates excellence in providing interdisciplinary, pre-service education, continuing education, community training, technical assistance and services as they related to individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

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Featured Staff Member Dave Heath

A world of thanks to Dave Heath for his 20 years of service with WIND, as he transitions into a new position at the University of Wyoming Office of Human Resources. Dave has consistently been a strong advocate for people with disabilities across the state, and his optimism and kindness will be greatly missed at WIND and throughout Wyoming.

Dave started at WIND in 2001 as a project coordinator, working on the National Core Indicators, a national assessment of state developmental disabilities networks. While he served in several roles in those early years, for the last 16 years, he has conducted ICAPs (Individual Client and Agency Planning) and managed the contract for this work from the Wyoming Department of Health. Aside from administrative duties for the contract, this means that he drove to every corner of the state to meet with individuals with developmental disabilities, autism, and acquired brain injuries to provide assessments that determine eligibility and funding for the Wyoming Medicaid Waiver services.

Over the years, Dave spent at least 40 weeks each year driving over 30,000 miles annually. Dave represented WIND and the University of Wyoming statewide, bringing his easy demeanor, kindness and respect for all people. Notes Sandy Root-Elledge, executive director, "People all over the state recognize the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities as the place where 'Dave works'; I am often approached by families, educators and service providers asking if I "get to work with Dave Heath."

Dave will now be staying close to home and continuing his service to the community, assisting the university with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) accommodations at HR. "A great big thank you goes to the WIND administration and staff, both past and present," concludes Dave. "I loved my time as an employee of WIND, and I will truly miss the WIND employees and those providers and persons with disabilities around the State of Wyoming that I came to know over these many years. I have many fond memories of the people and places around Wyoming that serve individuals with disabilities and will take those memories with me to Human Resources at the University of Wyoming."



Featured Disability Studies Student Brayden Gaston

The future is bright for disability studies minor Brayden Gaston. A native of Jackson, Brayden graduated in the fall of 2020 with a B. S. in physiology and minors in honors and neuroscience, in addition to disability studies. With this pre-med undergraduate concentration, Brayden is currently applying to medical schools, including the WWAMI program here at the University of Wyoming - his top choice.

Disability has always as a part of Brayden's life. His mother is a Developmental Disability waiver provider, and since turning 18, Brayden has been one as well. He started the Best Buddies Club at UW several years back and has provided leadership to the campus community on disability issues. As he focused his academic work on pre-med and the required science courses, Brayden was acutely aware of the need for a well-rounded, humanities-based component as well. He came to the disability studies minor program looking for greater understanding about issues surrounding disability and the knowledge needed to become a better health care provider.



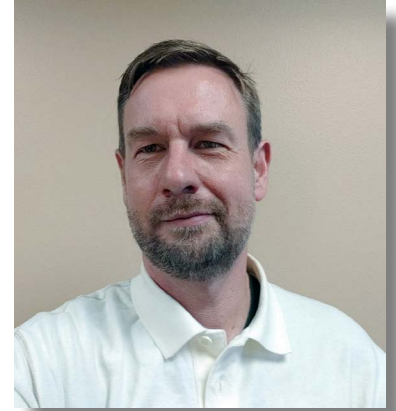
Brayden completed his disability studies practicum at the Downtown Clinic in Laramie where he had previously volunteered. His research and work there focused on whether providers felt prepared to work with people with disabilities, particularly individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Brayden became acutely aware of the limitations in medical and nursing education programs as it relates to caring for people with disabilities, a problematic paradigm that he would like to see change.

Since graduation, Brayden has continued working at the Downtown Clinic as an AmeriCorps volunteer, supporting local physicians, nurses, and pharmacists who donate their time to care for uninsured patients in the community.

Notes Brayden, "You need to be a well-rounded person in whatever you choose to do, and the disability studies minor brought that perspective not only to my undergraduate education, but also to the physician I hope to become." He adds, "The fundamental element necessary for providing good care is understanding. By recognizing that the human experience is widely varied, at the end of the day, we can care for the people we treat with greater skill and compassion because we have taken the time to understand them."

New WIND Faculty and Staff

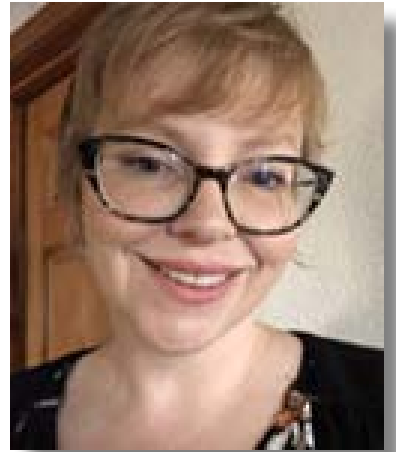
T. Abraham (Abe) Lentner is the WIND Business Manager. Abe has a background in urban planning, economic development and higher education. Prior to joining WIND, Abe taught courses in city planning and worked as a consultant. Abe has a Master of Urban Planning and Policy degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a B.A. from the University of Chicago.



Andrea Shipley is the Project Coordinator, Senior for Wyoming Telehealth Network at the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities where she shares her passion to help provide quality and accessible healthcare to Wyomingites regardless of their zip code.

Andrea is a fourth generation Wyomingite, born and raised in Worland. She has worked in a variety of capacities with nonprofits across the Northwest including executive director, development director, program staff, board member, and volunteer. She comes to WIND from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Andrea earned an associate degree in English from Northwest College, a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Montana, and she is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration from University of Wyoming.



Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Five Year, 2017-2022 Plan

Abstract

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities and key stakeholders will implement a five year (2017-2022) plan to support full community inclusion, community membership, independence, productivity and social participation for individuals with developmental disabilities. Developed with the Consumer Advisory Council, our plan is based upon findings from a comprehensive needs assessment and guided by the values of accessibility, inclusivity, diversity, cultural competency, choice and self-determination. We will conduct activities to improve individuals' opportunities for health and wellness, education, early intervention, employment and assistive technology.

Our objectives include: 1) educating graduate students and practicing professionals to serve and support families of children with special health care needs through the Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities program; 2) providing interdisciplinary pre-service preparation in disability, diversity, and inclusive practice through our Disability Studies program; 3) conducting basic and applied research, evaluation and public policy analysis in areas that affect or could affect individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; 4) increasing the capacity of professionals to implement best practices in their fields; 5) providing services that demonstrate evidence-based and best practices; and 6) disseminating findings and information to individuals, families and professionals throughout Wyoming. Our anticipated outcomes include increases in: 1, 2 & 4) trainees' knowledge, attitude and skills related to developmental disabilities; 3) evidence to inform policies and practices; 5) capacity for professionals to use evidence-based practices; and 6) resources, especially related to health and wellness. Our products will consist of scholarly publications, annual reports, a website, newsletters, social media, and other materials produced using positive approaches, universal design and accessibility principles.

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Project Directory

Disability Studies: Undergraduate Minor

Michelle Jarman, Alison Harkin

Disability studies is a diverse interdisciplinary field that investigates broad questions about the nature, meanings, and consequences of disability from interrelated social, historical, cultural, and political perspectives. The undergraduate minor in Disability Studies examines disability issues from multiple lenses.

Equality State Research Network

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Ethan Dahl, Tai Baker, Shelley Barth, Amy Reiser

The Equality State Research Network (ESRN) is a statewide network committed to engaging in community-based research to improve the overall health of Wyoming residents. The ESRN incorporates community engagement, quality improvement, and scientific inquiry.

Family Mentorship Program

Eric Moody, Wendy Warren

The Wyoming Family Mentorship program is designed to ensure that families have the support, resources, and community they need to thrive. Families are paired with families who know the joys and challenges of raising a child with a disability. Having a community is critical part of supporting families raising children with special healthcare needs.

Friendships and Dating

Canyon Hardesty, Amy Rieser

WIND's Sexual and Reproductive Health Training for Individuals with Disabilities is designed to decrease rates of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and interpersonal relationship violence and measure changes in relationships and social networks among individuals with disabilities.

iCan Connect

Ryan Rausch

Wyoming's iCanConnect program provides communications technology free of charge to income eligible people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. This program will distribute communications equipment to qualified individuals and provide equipment installation, training, and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.

Inventory of Client and Agency Planning (ICAP)

Christian Carter

The ICAP is a standardized measure that yields an estimate of a person's adaptive functioning, the extent of behavior problems that may limit his or her inclusion in various settings, as well as a systematic review of all available evaluation data. ICAP scores are used by the Wyoming Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division as part of the basis for determining eligibility for funding within the Developmental Disabilities service system. The Developmental Disabilities Division contracts with WIND to conduct ICAP interviews throughout the state and is responsible for conducting initial, emergency, and continuing eligibility interviews.

Project SCOPE

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Ethan Dahl, Tai Baker, Amy Rieser

Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the Opioid Epidemic, is a national training initiative intended to build nationwide provider capacity and confidence in applying evidence-based practices in screening, monitoring, and interdisciplinary support for children and families diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome, or who are suspected of being impacted by opioid use, trauma, or related exposure. WIND partners with the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for this project.

Research and Evaluation

Eric Moody, Ethan Dahl, Shelley Barth

At the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, we are committed to the improvement of our programs through continuous evaluation as well as learning how to better improve the lives of those with disabilities through novel, empirical research. WIND's Research and Evaluation team examines important real-world issues through an interdisciplinary lens, combining applied psychological, statistical, educational, medical, and public health approaches to find solutions to these problems.

University of Wyoming ECHO

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Wendy Warren, Cari Glantz

UW ECHO networks are hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing communities led by experienced teams using multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual sessions with stakeholders across the state. These virtual learning communities provide educators, service providers, case managers, administrators, families, and others access to expert advice from professionals throughout the state and country, building capacity in home communities to implement best practices and improve outcomes.

Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Disabilities (URLEND)

Canyon Hardesty

LEND is a nationally recognized group of trainees, gaining valuable experience in the disabilities field through participation in the program. URLEND at Wyoming Institute for Disabilities provides leadership and skill building opportunities for Wyoming graduate-level pre-professionals and professionals. Each year, student and professional trainees from a variety of health-related disciplines participate in a training program to increase their knowledge and skills in providing services and supports to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

WIND Consumer Advisory Council

Sandy Hubert

Members of the WIND Consumer Advisory Council, over half of whom are individuals with a disability or family members, consult with the WIND Executive Director regarding the development of the UCEDD's five-year plan, reviews, and comments annually on WIND's progress in meeting the projected goals, and makes recommendations to the WIND Executive Director regarding proposed revisions to the five-year plan.

Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC)

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Ryan Rausch, Terri Wofford

The Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC) provides fee-for-services training, technical assistance, services, and assessments to improve the accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Wyoming Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Clearinghouse

Canyon Hardesty, Ryan Rausch, Shelby Kappler

The Wyoming AEM Clearinghouse works with school districts in Wyoming to provide accessible educational materials to students with print disabilities. We are a designated state authorized user for a federally funded, national repository of accessible educational materials. The Wyoming AEM Clearinghouse can access the repository and provide the source files to districts. The Clearinghouse can help identify resources to convert the source files into individualized formats, appropriate for student access.

Wyoming Act Early

Wendy Warren

From birth to 5 years there are milestones a child should reach in terms of how he or she plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Act Early Wyoming helps parents, health care professionals, and childcare providers learn about healthy developmental milestones. Enhanced awareness of the developmental milestones leads to more timely assessments, earlier diagnosis, and referrals for early intervention.

Wyoming AgrAbility

Sandy Root-Elledge

Wyoming AgrAbility is an affiliate of the National AgrAbility Project through the United States Department of Agriculture that provides outreach, disability information, coordination of services and on-site assessments. The program is focused on promoting independence for members of the agricultural community who have disabilities resulting from injury, illness, aging, or other causes.

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Ryan Rausch, Terri Wofford, Gisele Knopf, Shelby Kappler and Gayl Bowser

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) is Wyoming's Assistive Technology Act program, established through the AT Act of 1998, as amended in 2004, to increase awareness and access to assistive technology. WATR provides assistive technology training and technical assistance, public awareness, device loans and device demonstrations.

Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center (WY F2F HIC)

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Wendy Warren

WY F2F HIC helps provide families of children and youth with special health care needs need greater access to evidence-based and cost-effective health information, family supports, and training to promote optimal health and patient engagement in health care decision making. All information, training, family support, professional education, and advocacy is facilitated through family-professional partnerships that allow families, children, and youth with special health care needs to increase their ability to make appropriate health decisions to improve their quality of life and be satisfied with the information and care received.

Wyoming Information Link for Developmental Disabilities

Sandy Root-Elledge

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Protection & Advocacy System, Inc., and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) are sister organizations authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities/Administration on Children and Families provides funding to each of these organizations. In Wyoming, the three agencies work together to provide a comprehensive array of supports to people with developmental disabilities, family members, providers and state agencies. Each agency brings a unique perspective on services and supports for people with disabilities and is required under federal law to address specific areas of concern. WILDD fosters communication and information exchange among the three organizations. Directors of the three agencies meet monthly to identify and address state priorities, emerging needs, and immediate issues.

Wyoming Technology Access Program

Sandy Root-Elledge, Gisele Knopf

WYTAP is a partnership among Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR), Wyoming Independent Living, Inc. (WIL), and First Interstate Bank of Laramie to provide a financial loan program for individuals to purchase assistive technology devices and services. WYTAP buys down the interest rate to lower than the current prime rate.

Wyoming Telehealth Network

Canyon Hardesty, Tai Baker, Andrea Shipley, Cede Angel

The Wyoming Telehealth Network supports healthcare entities, providers, and specialists increase access to care and improve health outcomes for Wyoming residents, through professional development, collaboration, and leveraging of telecommunications technology.

Keith A. Miller Award - 2020 Lucy Russell

In an virtual award ceremony, the 2020 Keith A. Miller award was presented to Lucy Russell.

Lucy was recognized for her service and commitment to people with disabilities in various capacities over her 30 plus year career. Lucy is currently the owner of Case Management for Positive Solutions in Cheyenne, and over the years has been a service provider, direct care supervisor, and case manager. In addition, Lucy has served on the Wyoming Department of Health's Developmental Disability Waiver Rules Committee and Steering Committee.



The award ceremony was held over Zoom to honor Lucy Russell (top right). Also joining were Lucy's nominators, WIND faculty & staff, and Keith and Joyce Miller (center row left).

Lucy was nominated for this award by 5 different people. In their nomination letters, several common themes stood out. In addition to her professional responsibilities, Lucy has volunteered for various civic organizations in Cheyenne that support people with disabilities, including the Cheyenne Women's Civic League. She has been a positive voice in her church, coordinating trainings on inclusion and support within the church setting.

The Wyoming Institute of Disabilities has dedicated our annual award to the founder of this center, Dr. Keith A. Miller. Professor Miller received his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University and worked for many years at the University of Wyoming in Social Work before he began laying the groundwork for a University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) in 1986. After several years of planning, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities was officially launched in November 1994, and Dr. Miller served as the director until his retirement in 2007.

Keith A. Miller built his career upon the philosophy that everyone should help communities become more welcoming and supportive of people with disabilities. In his words, "We are an interdependent community; we all rely on others. We all have abilities; we all have disabilities, it's a natural part of life."

It is Dr. Miller's spirit of dedication and desire for excellence in being "a force fighting for people with disabilities" that has inspired the Keith A. Miller Award.