



WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Booklet April 12, 2022



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 12, 2022 through Zoom videoconferencing. <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/94026460406>

To set up a free Zoom account:

- 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: <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/94026460406>

To join the meetings via an existing Zoom account:

Topic: WIND CAC and Advisory Committee meetings

Time: Apr 12, 2022 09:45 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/94026460406>

Meeting ID: 940 2646 0406

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 940 2646 0406

WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda April 12, 2022

12:55 p.m. Link via Zoom: <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/94026460406>

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

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of prior meeting notes
- Welcome new member of the Consumer Advisory Council:
 - Jennifer Figenser, Wyoming Parent Information Center
 - Feliciana Turner, WY Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Unit
 - Danielle Marks, now representing Wyoming Department of Family Services

1:45 p.m. Meeting orientation, meeting booklet review, and WIND updates, Sandy Root-Elledge
Discussion, In person meetings

2:00 p.m. Disability Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Michelle Jarman

2:20 p.m. WIND 5 Year Plan: Goals, Objectives and Implementation,
Michelle Jarman, Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody

3:15 p.m. Wrap up, further discussions

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2022,
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

April 12, 2022

- 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 CAC members and guests
- 10:15 a.m. Sandy Root-Elledge, comments and updates
- Betsy Bress, Web Satisfaction Survey
- WIND CAC members updates
- 10:45 a.m. Eric Moody, Ph.D, WIND Director of Research and Evaluation
- Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities
- 11:30 a.m. WIND CAC Meeting Ends and Break for Lunch
- 12:55 p.m. WIND CAC members will join the meeting with the WIND Advisory Council

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

November 2, 2021

Meeting called to order 1:00pm, Dr. David L. Jones, Dean, College of Health Sciences

In attendance, members:

David L. Jones, Chair
Sandra Root Elledge, ex-officio
Sandy Theil, CAC Chair
Julie Andrew
Shannon Buller
Amy Burns
Kayc DeMaranville
Eleanor Pepi Downey
Jennifer Figenser
Lee Grossman
Nicky Harper
Cynthia Hartung
Leo Levensgood
Chele Mecomber Porter
Lori Regnier
Aleyta Zimmerman

In attendance, WIND:

Betsy Bress
Canyon Hardesty
Sandra Hubert
Michelle Jarman
Eric Moody
Kayleigh Schermerhorn
Kelly S, Captioner

The meeting agenda and the meeting notes from the prior meeting were approved.

Dr. David Jones provided an update on the College of Health Sciences. The College is strong and continues to engage in its mission. Like most colleges in the University, the CHS faces budget reductions in the coming year (FY23). WIND faces a relatively small cut to its state support. CHS has initiated a search for a new Dean. Dr. Jones plans to retire at the end of the academic year. A search committee has been formed.

The University is in the 2nd year of its new president. Reorganization of the university is ongoing and evolving. External and internal stakeholders have raised concerns about the form of the reorganization, and the state's fiscal situation may be improving. In any case, the impact on the College of Health Sciences is fairly minimal.

Introductions were made by everyone.

Sandy Root-Elledge provided additional WIND updates. One of WIND's benefactors, Beth Miller Schieck, a champion for support for families and individuals with disabilities in Wyoming, has passed away. Beth's planned gift will endow a scholarship for the disability studies program.

The listening session regarding recruitment and retention of direct service providers in October was very successful. Eric Moody and his research team are compiling the results and preparing a report.

The Consumer Advisory Committee and the WIND faculty and staff have been working on an updated mission statement for WIND's 5-year plan. The vision statement remains WIND's long-standing vision statement.

WIND Vision Statement: The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities envisions a Wyoming where all people can participate in everyday community life as they choose.

WIND proposes to change the **mission statement** to read:

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) at the University of Wyoming is an academic unit in the College of Health Sciences and a University Center for Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD).

We assist and support individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families and their networks by advancing diversity, equity, full community inclusion, independence and social participation.

Our work is guided by values of service, dignity, collaboration and innovation.

The Consumer Advisory Council contributed significant thought and effort to the development of an updated mission statement. In addition, the Consumer Advisory Council's FY21 annual report outlines significant efforts of that group over the past year. The key accomplishments are summarized on page 12 of the meeting packet.

WIND 5-Year Plan Logic Model, Canyon Hardesty

Canyon Hardesty identified areas of collaboration and support between WIND, partner agencies and the community. 5 Year Planning Goals and Activities. This information will be incorporated into WIND's 5-year plan. Prompts included:

- (1) Alignment between each committee member's background and the WIND's 9 goals.
- (2) How can there be collaboration on key activities over the next 5 years.

Committee members used the Jamboard to identify and articulate ideas according to each of the identified WIND goals. Discussion elaborates and clarifies the ideas that are posted on the Jamboard.

Additional comment, by **Lee Grossman**:

I would suggest researching the barriers to home and community-based services on the Wind River Reservation. To the best of my knowledge, there seems to be very little in the way of in-depth research on this topic. Here is a link to one of the more recent studies that I can find. It is a CMS publication and mostly discusses the need for future research.

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/American-Indian-Alaska-Native/AIAN/LTSS-TA-Center/pdf/LTSS-High-lights-from-Literature-Disabilities.pdf>

While the percentage of waiver participants who self-declare to be Native American is similar to the latest census data (3% v 2.7%), I have a feeling there is more to be understood in the way of barriers to services.

Concluding remarks and thanks to all of the participants.

Meeting adjourned at 3:19pm

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Member Directory

Sandra Thiel, Council Chair
Advocate
516 S. Thurmond Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-752-2794
Sandythiel58@gmail.com

Julie Andrew
Advocate
4441 E. 24th Street
Casper, WY 82609
(H) 307-265-6968; (C) 307-262-4947
sjandrew2@bresnan.net

Samantha Andrew
Self-Advocate
4441 E. 24th Street
Casper, WY 82609
(H) 307-265-6968; (C) 307-262-4947
sjandrew2@bresnan.net

Tammy Aumiller
Special Education Teacher
Albany County School District #1
509 S. 9th St.
Laramie, WY 82070
307-721-0103
taumiller@acsd1.org

Jennifer Figenser
Exec. Director,
WY Parent Information Ctr.
145 N. 1st East Street
Green River, WY 82935
(H) 307-253-8934
(O) 970-260-1989
jfigenser@wpic.org

Leo Levensgood
Owner
Lions Pride Care
2617 E. Lincolnway, Suite J
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 274-7850
lionspridecare@yahoo.com

Bill McDonald
Advocate
1953 Edwards Drive, Unit A
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 751-3372
billymac@bresnan.net

Chele Mecomber Porter, Ex Officio Member
Chair, Wyoming Assistive Technology Advisory
Committee
4675 Road 213
Burns, WY 82053
(307) 547-3447
rokoranch@gmail.com

Kylie Porter
Self-Advocate
4675 Road 213
Burns, WY 82053
(307) 547-3447
rokoranch@gmail.com

Lori Regnier
Senior Program Administrator
Protection & Advocacy
7344 Stockman Street
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 632-9436
wypande@wypanda.com

Aleyta Zimmerman
Project Coordinator
Governor's Council on Developmental
Disabilities
320 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 777-3339
aleyta.zimmerman@wyo.gov

WIND Advisory Committee Member Directory

David Jones, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Health Sciences
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Avenue, Dept. 3432
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6556
DLJones@uwyo.edu

Amy Burns
Executive Director
Wyoming Independent Living
1050 N. 3rd St., Suite B1
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 721-4071
aburns@wilr.org

Shannon Buller
Executive Director
Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
320 W. 25th Street, 1 East
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7332
Shannon.Buller@wyo.gov

Kayc DeMaranville
Vice President, Education
Ark Regional Services
1150 N. 3rd Street
Laramie, WY 82072
(307) 742-6641
kayc@arkrs.org

Eleanor Downey, MSW, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Social Work
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3632
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6112
edowney1@uwyo.edu

Jeff Gardner
Executive Director
Wyoming Community Service Providers
P.O. Box 2990
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 760-8137
jeff@wyomingcsp.org

Lee Grossman
Administrator, Developmental Disabilities Section
Behavioral Health Division
Wyoming Department of Health
6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 220

Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307) 777-7460
lee.grossman1@wyo.gov

Shelley Hamel
Chief Academic Officer
WY Dept. of Education
2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 777-2058
shelley.hamel@wyo.gov

Nicky Harper
Administrator, WY Division of Vocational Rehab
851 Werner Court, #120
Casper, WY 82609
(307) 261-2171
nicky.harper@wyo.gov

Ann Marie Hart, Ph.D.
Professor, DNP Program Director
Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing
University of Wyoming
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3065
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-6564
annmhart@uwyo.edu

Cynthia Hartung, Ph.D.
Professor, Dept. of Psychology
University of Wyoming
Director of the Psychology Center
1000 E. University Ave., Department 3415
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 314-2123
chartung@uwyo.edu

Danielle Marks, MSW, MPH
Senior Policy Advisor
Wyoming Department of Family Services
2300 Capitol Avenue, Hathaway Building - 3rd
Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7734
danielle.marks1@wyo.gov

Feliciana Turner
Unit Manager, Maternal and Child Health Unit
Public Health Division
122 West 25th Street, 3rd Floor West
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-3733 (office)
feliciana.turner@wyo.gov

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Faculty and Staff Meeting Participants

Sandy Root-Elledge
Executive Director
(307) 766-2764
sre@uwyo.edu

Michelle Jarman, Ph.D.
Director, Disability Studies
(307) 766-5060
mjarman@uwyo.edu

Betsy Bress
Coordinator, Information Dissemination
(307) 766-2561
bbress@uwyo.edu

Thomas "Abe" Lentner
Business Manager
(307) 766-2813
tlentner@uwyo.edu

Canyon Hardesty
WIND Associate Director
Director, Community Education, Training
(307) 766-5003
canyon@uwyo.edu

Eric Moody, Ph.D.
WIND Associate Director
Director, Research and Evaluation
(307) 766-2932
eric.moody@uwyo.edu

Sandy Hubert
Coordinator, Consumer Advisory Council
(307) 766-2935
shubert1@uwyo.edu

Kayleigh Schermerhorn
Office Associate, Senior
(307) 766-2995
kscherm1@uwyo.edu

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.

Contact Information

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities
1000 University Avenue, Department 4298 Laramie, WY 82071
Phone: (307) 766-2761; Toll Free: (888) 989-9463; TTY: 800-908-7011; Fax: (307) 766-2763
E-Mail Address: uwwind@uwyo.edu
Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind>

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Five Year Plan, 2017-2022

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.

Featured Staff Member Wendy Warren

Meet Wendy Warren, Program Manager at WIND. Wendy has a BA in elementary education from the University of Wyoming and is near completion of her MA in education, with a concentration in curriculum and instruction. Wendy manages the UW ECHO in Education, Early Intervention, and Family Support programs, coordinating the networks to build capacity to meet the needs of educators, service providers, and families in Wyoming. In addition, she also coordinates the ECHO Superhub activities for partners across the country interested in learning more about using the ECHO model for their own organizations.

Now in her tenth year, Wendy joined the WIND team in 2012 as a project coordinator in the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) lab, supporting assistive technology access and education. With the implementation of the ECHO in Education project in 2014, Wendy transitioned to a senior project coordinator with Project ECHO and was instrumental in the establishment of the ECHO in Education work.

Notes Wendy, "As a former educator in a rural school in Wyoming, I recognize the value and importance of the ECHO model as an important way to deliver professional development and create communities of practice for all disciplines that work in education and serve students. ECHO allows for the sharing of information and resources that was not previously available due to barriers related to travel, cost, and lack of specialty knowledge."

Wendy also coordinates projects that address the needs of families, specifically families of children and youth with special health care needs. She became the Act Early Ambassador to Wyoming with the Learn the Signs Act Early Project in 2019. In this role, she coordinates statewide awareness and education on the importance early developmental screenings for children, as well as developmental monitoring and tracking using the CDC's Act Early program.

"COVID has had a significant impact of families and children," adds Wendy. "Wyoming families have been so resilient; we really want to look at how our communities have adapted to these disruptions and support interventions and activities that can help families who also might have faced significant interruptions to services or other resources."



Featured Disability Studies Minor Students Grace Ann Vigneri & Ashtyn Harmsen

Grace Vigneri and Ashtyn Harmsen both come to UW and the disability studies minor program from Casper. They have been friends since high school, and have followed a similar path for college, studying speech-language pathology, with minors in honors and disability studies. Both Grace and Ashtyn will be starting M.S. programs in speech-language pathology this fall.

Ashtyn and Grace worked as respite providers before starting the minor program and knew they were interested in working with people with disabilities. Ashtyn comments, "I started the minor when I was a freshman, so the classes always worked well with my major, and I was interested in the practicum as well." Adds Grace, "Disability studies has been an amazing opportunity. Dr. Jarman really cares about the program and students, and she's awesome about taking the time to talk with us about our ideas and plans for what comes next."



Grace Vigneri

Both also did their disability studies practicums at the UW Lab School. Grace had the opportunity to gain experience working with students with a range of learning disabilities. She was able to not only help students in the classroom and on recess, but also attended IEP meetings and other planning sessions. Her practicum research project on Barton Reading and Spelling methods was instrumental in understanding learning disabilities and the application to a speech-language professional practice.

Ashtyn was able to partner with the lab school special education teacher, working with both kindergarten and 5th/6th grade students. "It was exciting to be a school setting, working with students just entering elementary school as well as those who were ready for middle school." Ashtyn adds, "Being hands-on and going from book learning to a school setting was fantastic. It was great to see how students were supported and make those connections."



Ashtyn Harmsen

Grace is excited about her future work as a speech-language pathologist, and while interested in specializing in patients with autism and Down Syndrome, she is also looking forward to supporting students with learning disabilities. With graduation close at hand, when asked about her advice to incoming freshmen, Grace concluded, "Reach out to Dr. Jarman, especially if you're interested in speech-language, occupational therapy or teaching. It's an amazing opportunity." Ashtyn shared the enthusiasm, "Dr. Jarman and the disability studies program unlocked so many new doors for me. I have this great understanding of disability - its history, legal structures, and societal perceptions. These really have been my most interesting

courses, and I'm excited to use this knowledge in my professional career."

New WIND Faculty and Staff



Kyle Bares, Ph.D., is a Research Associate III. He received his B.A. in Psychology and Criminal Justice from the University of Wyoming in 2016 and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Bowling Green State University in 2018 and 2021. Dr. Bares' work at WIND includes program evaluation and statistical analysis for Project ECHO and Wyoming Telehealth Network, along with supporting WIND's research agenda.

Tara Bumgarner is a Project Coordinator with WIND. She holds a BS in Child and Family Studies Community Outreach with a minor in American Sign Language from the University of Tennessee. She is excited to be in Wyoming, working with, supporting and advocating for underserved communities and marginalized individuals / families.



Liberty Hicks is a Research Associate I and self-advocate, working primarily with the WIND research team, helping improve access for people with disabilities to WIND work and research. She is a graduate of Laramie High School, and outside of her work at WIND, Liberty is also an artist and animal lover.

Vic Pumilio is a Project Coordinator Assistant for WIND. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in philosophy from the University of Wyoming. Prior to working at WIND, Vic worked as a Youth Developmental Professional at Big Brothers Big Sisters in Laramie and served as a student journalist advisor for the UW Branding Iron.



Tatiana Warden is an Office Assistant at WIND and is currently a junior at UW studying Kinesiology. She also works at Ark Regional Services. Prior to being an office assistant, Tatiana was a work study student at WIND.

Keith A. Miller Award Tammy Aumiller

The recipient of the 2021 Keith A. Miller Award was Tammy Aumiller. Tammy was recognized for her leadership, innovation and passion for students with disabilities, helping them reach their goals and live independent lives.

Tammy has been an educator with the Albany County School District #1 for 21 years, and during this time she has volunteered countless hours to organizations that address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and served on numerous boards and committees, including WIND's own Consumer Advisory Council.

Tammy was nominated for this award by her colleague, Megan Friderich, who also offered details about Tammy's innovation and leadership within the district, "Tammy shares her extensive knowledge by leading a professional learning community of teachers that services students with developmental disabilities."

In 2009, Tammy opened the Transition Academy in Laramie, and she continues with this significant work within the Albany County School District, helping students develop professional skills to use as they transition into their adult lives.



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.

WIND 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 theoretical frameworks.

Equality State Research Network

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Ethan Dahl, Tai Baker, Kyles Bares, Amy Rieser, Liberty Hicks

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.

Expansion of COVID-19 Vaccine Access for People with Disabilities

Sandy Root-Elledge, Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty

As a UCEDD, WIND was allocated funding to increase access to vaccines for individuals with disabilities. WIND is partnering with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities to conduct a statewide study of pandemic and vaccine impacts, perceptions and issues.

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, 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, Kyles Bares

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.

WyRamp Project

Ryan Rausch

The WyRamp Project, a collaboration between the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources, Wyoming Life Resource Center, and Goshen County Senior Friendship Center, covering Lander, Laramie, and Torrington provides access to a person's home through the use of temporary ramps, increasing both safety and access.

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, Ryan Rausch

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.