



# **WIND Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Booklet**

**April 16, 2024**

**30 Years**  
Wyoming Institute  
for Disabilities

# **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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## **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 relate to individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

## **Mission**

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) assists and supports 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.

## **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](mailto:uwwind@uwyo.edu)  
Website: <http://www.uwyo.edu/wind>

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## Meeting Details

The WIND Consumer Advisory Council meeting and the WIND Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in person on April 16, 2023, at the UW Conference Center, Salons A, B, and C, located at 2221 E. Grand Avenue in Laramie (located on the west side of the Hilton Garden Inn).

9:30 - 11:50 a.m. - Consumer Advisory Council meeting, Salon A & B

12:00 - 12:50 p.m. - Lunch in Salons A & B

1:00 - 3:30 p.m. - WIND Advisory Committee Meeting, Salon C



**To join remotely, scan the QR code or visit  
<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/98751165446>**

**Meeting ID: 987 5116 5446**

# **WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

## **April 16, 2024**

University of Wyoming Conference Center, Hilton Garden Inn  
Salon C

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch with WIND Consumer Advisory Council and WIND staff

**1:00 p.m.** Convene meeting, Sherrill Smith, Dean, School of Nursing, College of Health Sciences

- Welcome
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of October 2023 meeting notes
- Introductions, all, including new CAC member, Angel Thomas

**1:20 p.m.** Meeting orientation, booklet review and updates, Michelle Jarman

**1:30 p.m.** WIND Consumer Advisory Council updates, Sandy Thiel, Chair

**1:40 p.m.** University of Wyoming and College of Health Sciences updates, Sherrill Smith

**1:50 p.m.** WIND Status Report, ACL Mid-year Progress Report

- Historical context & transition, Sandy Root-Elledge
- Ongoing concerns & moving forward, Michelle Jarman
- Brief updates on related initiatives:
  - Telehealth, Canyon Hardesty
  - WIND 5-Year Planning Process, Eric Moody

Advisory Council Composition, Sandy Root-Elledge

- Small group discussion & input

Brief Break

**2:45 p.m.** WIND 30th Anniversary Celebration, Emily Kirsch

**3:10 p.m.** Agency and member updates, all

**3:30 p.m.** Adjourn

Next meeting for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, UW Conference Center, Laramie

Please note: WIND 30th Anniversary event & reception on October 7th

# **WIND Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**

## **April 16, 2024**

UW Conference Center, Salons, A and B

**9:30 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions

- Sandy Thiel, Chairperson, Consumer Advisory Council
- Michelle Jarman, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director, WIND
- Sandy Hubert, Coordinator, WIND Consumer Advisory Council
- Introduction of CAC members and guests

**9:45 a.m.** Michelle Jarman, Updates

- WIND Progress Report to ACL / WIND Autonomy
- Questions & discussion

**10:30 a.m.** Brittany Brigham, WIND Project Coordinator

- Keith A. Miller Award Process

**10:45 a.m.** Sandy Thiel

- CAC discussion and planning
- CAC member updates

**11:50 a.m.** WIND CAC meeting ends and members break for lunch

**12:55 a.m.** WIND CAC members join the meeting with the WIND Advisory Committee

# Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

## October 3, 2023

UW Conference Center, Salon C, Laramie, WY

### In attendance, members:

- Sandra Root-Elledge,
- Danielle Marks
- Zebediah Hall
- Kayla Green
- Leo Levengood
- Bill McDonald
- Toni Shelby
- Margie Robertson
- Lori Regnier
- Kylie Porter
- Chele Mecomber Porter

- Kayc DeMaranville
- Samantha Andrew
- Julie Andrew
- Feliciana Turner
- Amy Burns
- Jennifer Cave
- Sandy Thiel
- Darrah Short
- Jeff Gardner
- Tiffany Hunt
- Aleyta Zimmerman
- Elizabeth Forslund
- Valerie Thompson-Ebanks

### In attendance, WIND:

- Michelle Jarman
- Eric Moody
- Canyon Hardesty
- Terri Wofford
- Tatiana Worden
- Sandy Hubert
- Betsy Bress
- Abe Lentner

Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm by Dr. Jacob Warren, former Dean of the College of Health Sciences. The meeting agenda and minutes from the prior meeting were approved. Introductions and announcements were held.

### CHS and UW updates presented by Jacob Warren:

1. CHS was allocated additional space in the Mountainview medical center. May include additional space for CHS and WIND's public facing teams
2. Working to get the consultant on board for the PA program. It will take about 3 years to matriculate students into this program.
3. CHS had 7 lines allocated for faculty hiring
4. CHS continues to work on strategic plan. There will be open forums for each of the goals in the strategic plan. Student success is a central theme to the university's strategic plan and will be for CHS.
5. There is an upcoming fundraising effort university-wide and for each unit.
6. NIH designated individuals with disabilities as a population that faces health disparities and this opens opportunities for funding for WIND and CHS.
7. I'd like to mention Mary Burman's passing, former Dean of Nursing. Many of you knew her and she was active and engaged in the community.

## **WIND Consumer Advisory Council Report by Sandy Thiel.**

A great presentation by Terri Wofford about AAC this morning.

CAC continues to work toward two major goals: Transportation and DEI.

We are working with Leo Levengood on transportation issues. Leo has recruited a grant writer to assist with his transportation project.

DEI - Working with COLA we will look at marriage penalties receiving support for their disabilities. We can work to advocate for policy measures to address these marriage equity issues.

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## **Presentation on WIND annual Report by Eric Moody.**

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### **Small group discussion reporting back.**

Zebediah Hall:

- Safety plan in place for individuals with disabilities – especially personal safety
- This conversation is going on a national level.

Jennifer:

- 5 classes of students at

Amy Burns:

- A benefit to the university community

Betsy Bress:

- Eye opening experience for Michelle's students and lived experience.

Michelle Jarman:

- Transition programs and connecting them around the state.
- How do we ensure social inclusion in meaningful ways.

## **Agency and member updates:**

- Valerie Thompson-Ebanks: an expanded graduate program to include a part time program at UW Casper
- Kayc DeMaranville: Ark - support 90 people in Laramie from ages 21 to 84. DSP workforce is the biggest challenge - it is hard to pay enough to be competitive.
- Feliciana Turner: CYSHC Needs reimagining - how can the public health division serve them better? Also starting the next 5 year needs assessment. 2 new funding opportunities perinatal quality cooperative, and a maternal mortality review committee.
- Jeff Gardner - Annual DSP of the year event. The event was in September. Thanks to Elizabeth for reviewing the applications. October is national disability employment awareness month.
- Amy Burns - Collaboration with LCCC. Within the curriculum, we had a large component of the F&D training program. LCCC is blown away with it! Collaboration with Dept and Health and WIND on the certification process (case manager training) has been phenomenal. DVR has pathways to partnership grants- another way to focus on youth transition services. WATR and Ryan have been great, providing training and presentations on assistive technology.
- Jennifer Figenser - PIC - any parent can get one-on-one support for any parent who thinks their kid might have a disability. Babies through age 26. We have a new staff member working on transition programs. We are looking for board members and parent liaisons.
- Aleyta Zimmerman - Working with Kyle Summerville on VR systems for workplace safety. Interim Ex Dir, related to human trafficking and host home services.
- The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) assists and supports 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. Over the next five years (2022-2027), WIND will strive to improve outcomes for individuals in the areas of health and wellness, education, early intervention, employment, and assistive technology.
- Danielle Marks: Charge to go back to the data and look for proportion with IDD. Statewide investment in family resource centers 0 including access to services. There have been mental health and vulnerable populations.

- Elizabeth Forslund - HCBS section. Appreciate the feedback on the case manager training program. This has been a great partnership! Thanks to the WIND folks working on this project. Public Health Emergency unwinding – allowing people to prepare for the expiration of flexibilities that were allowed under the public health emergency. Thanks to all for participating in cutting the waitlist in half. By the end of the year, we should be down to just a handful of people who have been on the waitlist for 2 and a half years. The 2d round of our technology innovation funding is open. This program provides up-front funding to support providers in technological innovation and improvements.
- The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) assists and supports 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. Over the next five years (2022-2027), WIND will strive to improve outcomes for individuals in the areas of health and wellness, education, early intervention, employment, and assistive technology.
- Toni Shelby from Dept of Ed: Statewide Data drill down – graduation rates and post-secondary outcomes. Of students who are in the resource room placement 75% who graduated took a college readiness or CTI course. This is encouraging. We are reviewing our policy and procedures for technical assistance. We want to be meaningfully inclusive. Wyoming Chapter 7 is coming up for public comment soon. Thinking about dropping the transition age from 16 to 14, we want to reach kids before they reach the dropout age. Take a look at Chapter 7 if you can.
- Kayla Green: Here On behalf of Shannon Boller. Winding down one collaborative project with WIND – social isolation project. National Disability Employment Awareness month – but this is our focus all year – look for new information as it comes up.
- Zebediah Hall – Training for law enforcement in crisis intervention. I am now the ADA coordinator and run the accessibility committee. We want to plan a transition program for UW students with disabilities to come to campus before the start of the academic year.

# **Additional Updates Since Previous Meeting**

## **October - December 2023**

- Betsy Bress is no longer with WIND but still works on campus with College Affairs in the College of Arts & Sciences Deans Office
- Abe Lentner is no longer with WIND but remains active with many of our programs. He now works as a Coordinator for Research Services

## **January - April 2024**

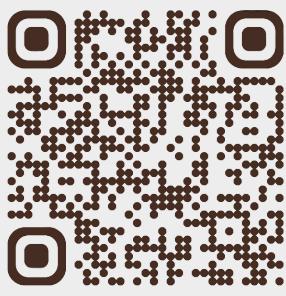
- Ryan Rausch is no longer with WIND but is continuing to work with assistive technology at a national level
- Jacob Warren was removed from Dean of the College of Health Sciences in late January. Dr. Michelle Hilaire has been appointed interim Dean for the College of Health Sciences
- Dr. Michelle Jarman was appointed Interim Executive Director of WIND
- Sandy Root-Elledge has announced her retirement which will take place in August
- Canyon Hardesty has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

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## **30 Years With WIND and 10 Years with ECHO**

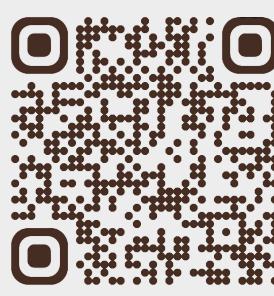
- WIND will be hosting educator, advocate and filmmaker Jim Warne October 7th and 8th in celebration of 30 years of WIND.
- WIND and ECHO will be collecting quotes and stories of their impact. To fill out the surveys, scan the QR codes below.

**ECHO Survey**



[bit.ly/3PChUIT](https://bit.ly/3PChUIT)

**WIND Survey**



[bit.ly/4cxB5gJ](https://bit.ly/4cxB5gJ)

# **WIND Consumer Advisory Council Member Directory**

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

Michelle Jarman  
Interim Executive Director  
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities  
Health Sciences Ctr 147B  
Laramie, WY 82071  
(307) 766-5060  
mjarman@uwyo.edu

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

Thomas "Abe" Lentner, ad hoc  
member  
Advocate  
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities  
1000 E. University Ave., #4298  
Laramie, WY 82071  
(307) 766-2813  
tlentner@uwyo.edu

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

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

Jennifer Cave  
Executive 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

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

Brandon Douglas  
Advocate  
107 Land 9 1/2  
Powell, WY 82435  
(307) 254-2273  
bdouglas@primeres.com  
brandondouglas23@gmail.com

Chele Mecomber Porter, ex officio  
member  
Chair, Wyoming Assistive  
Technology Advisory  
Committee  
4675 Road 213  
Burns, WY 82053  
(307) 214-9925  
rokoranch@gmail.com

# **WIND Consumer Advisory Council Member Directory**

Kylie Porter  
Self-Advocate  
4675 Road 213  
Burns, WY 82053  
(307) 214-9925  
rokoranch@gmail.com

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

Angel Thomas, Outreach Parent  
Liaison  
Wyoming Parent Information Center  
3815 Thomas Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
(307) 374-1605 ex 3  
athomas@wpic.org

Aleyta Zimmerman  
Executive Director of Encore  
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**

Amy Burns Executive Director Wyoming Independent Living 1050 N. 3rd St., Suite B1 Laramie, WY 82072 (307) 721-4071 aburns@wilr.org	Zebadiah Hall Vice President for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion University of Wyoming 1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3434 Laramie, WY 82071 (307) 766-6672 zhall2@uwyo.edu
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	Nicky Harper Administrator, WY Division of Vocational Rehab 851 Werner Court, #120 Casper, WY 82609 (307) 261-2171 nicky.harper@wyo.gov
Kayc DeMaranville Vice President, Education Ark Regional Services 1150 N. 3rd Street Laramie, WY 82072 (307) 742-6641 kayc@arkrs.org	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
Jeff Gardner Executive Director Wyoming Community Service Providers P.O. Box 2990 Cheyenne, WY 82003 (307) 760-8137 jeff@wyomingcsp.org	Tiffany Hunt, Ph.D. Assoc. Lecturer, College of Education University of Wyoming 1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3374 Laramie, WY 82071 thunt@uwyo.edu
Lee Grossman State Medicaid Agent Wyoming Department of Health 6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 220 Cheyenne, WY 82009 (307) 777-7460 lee.grossman1@wyo.gov	Michelle Jarman, Ph.D. ad hoc member Interim Executive Director Director, Disability Studies (307) 766-5060 mjarman@uwyo.edu

## **WIND Advisory Committee Member Directory**

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

Christina McDonnell, Ph.D.  
Asst. Professor, Dept. of Psychology  
University of Wyoming  
1000 E. University Ave., Department  
3415  
Laramie, WY 82071  
(307) 766-4106  
christina.mcdonnell@uwyo.edu

Margee Robertson  
Special Education Programs  
Division Director  
WY Dept. of Education  
122 W. 25th St., Suite E200  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
(307) 777-2870  
margee.robertson@wyo.gov

Valerie Thompson-Ebanks  
Dept. Head, Division of Social Work  
University of Wyoming  
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 3632  
Laramie, WY 82071  
(307) 766-5639  
vthomps4@uwyo.edu

Felicia 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)  
felicia.turner@wyo.gov

# **Wyoming Institute for Disabilities Faculty and Staff Meeting Participants**

Brittany P. Brigham  
Project Coordinator  
(307) 766-6407  
bwilli26@uwyo.edu

Emily Kirsch  
Project Coordinator, Senior  
(307) 766-2761  
ekirsch2@uwyo.edu

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

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

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

Sandy Root-Elledge  
Senior Lecturer  
Wyoming Institute for Disabilities  
1000 E. University Ave., Dept. 4298  
(307) 766-2764  
sre@uwyo.edu

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

# **Wyoming Institute for Disabilities**

## **Five Year Plan, 2022-2027**

### **Abstract**

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities at the University of Wyoming will improve the education, early intervention, health and wellness, employment, and assistive technology outcomes of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the five-year project period, 2022-27. Our mission is to assist individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families by promoting and supporting full community inclusion, community membership, independence, productivity, and social participation. Project goals include 1) providing interdisciplinary, family curriculum in leadership; 2) educating undergraduate and graduate students in disability studies; 3) providing training to professionals and communities; 4) providing best-practices-based services; 5) conducting basic and applied research, and evaluation and/or public policy analysis; 6) disseminating knowledge-based and accessible information; and 7) ensuring our business practices support diversity, equity, and inclusion. Anticipated outcomes related to the goals include increasing: 1) the percentage of URLEND and Disability Studies students from underrepresented populations; 2) the knowledge, attitude, and skills of undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students; 3) the number of faculty engaged in the disability studies academic program; 4) the number of collaborations in Wyoming, other states, and globally; 5) knowledge, skills, and use of best practices among professionals; 6) diversity among trainees; 7) telehealth capacity in Wyoming; 8) the number of topics for which technical assistance is provided; 9) the number research proposals, funding awards and dissemination of findings; 10) engagement of our Consumer Advisory Council with program development, implementation, and evaluation; 11) the number of accessible products produced and disseminated; and 12) procurement and dollars awarded to contractors from underserved populations.

## New WIND Staff



**Krista Zwieg**

**Project Coordinator, Assistive Technology**

Krista is a project coordinator with the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources team at WIND. Krista graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in social work and a minor in disability studies. While completing the minor, Krista discovered a passion for working with individuals with disabilities. Krista has worked for Ark and Greener Paths inc., both companies working with individuals with disabilities.

**Lauren Hulit-White**

**Project Coordinator, Education and Family Programs**

Lauren is a project coordinator for the education and family programs at WIND. She graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in music education and a minor in disability studies. Lauren has worked as a K-1 music teacher in Rawlins, WY and ran a research study from the Equality State Research Network (ESRN) about the engagement of students with disabilities in the music classroom setting using adaptive technology. She currently enjoys spending time with her husband and dogs, teaching private music lessons to students throughout the community, performing in the community band, and hanging out with her sister with multiple disabilities along with being a family advocate.



# Featured Disability Studies Minor Students



## Darrah Short

This May, I will graduate with my Bachelor's in Social Work with Minors in Honors and Disability Studies. The Disability Studies Minor transformed my education. I've gained invaluable insights into relationship building, self-determination, and interdisciplinary collaboration. I worked on a Photo Voice research project exploring independence for people with disabilities. After that, I became interested in guardianship practices in Wyoming and am currently exploring community interventions to preserve autonomy.

Now, I am pursuing a Masters in Social work at the University of Wyoming and program seat as a trainee in LEND - the Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. These opportunities will give me the privilege to work alongside people with disabilities to create more equitable and connected communities.

## Riley Skorcz

I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and the Disability Studies minor in December 2023. I will be starting my Master's program in Speech-Language Pathology this August, though I am still deciding between the University of Wyoming and the University of Utah! During my time at UW, the Disability Studies minor was paramount in my development as a future Speech-Language Pathologist as well as in my development as a well-informed and caring community

member. The D.S. minor has also set me up for success in my academic career and extracurricular activities, including Access UW Day. Access UW Day, an annual one-day campus initiative focused on accessibility and disability-related topics, is a project I am now in my second year of facilitating, and it would not be the successful event it is today without the guidance of my Disability Studies minor. I am so grateful for the people I have met and the experiences I have had through the Disability Studies minor program, and I cannot recommend this program enough for any student who wants to be an informed global citizen that shows up for all communities.



## Keith A. Miller Award - 2023

### Donna Sheen

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) hosts an annual award dedicated to our founder, Dr. Keith A. Miller. The Keith A. Miller Award began in 2005 as a way to honor those who have made a difference in and for the disability community. 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.



The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) is honored to present the 2023 18th annual Keith A. Miller Award to Donna Sheen. Donna is the founder and director of the Wyoming Children’s Law Center. In this role, she has dedicated herself to protecting children and vulnerable adults through legal services, holistic conflict resolution, and policy advocacy. Just as Keith A. Miller was a force, Donna Sheen has provided energy to the legal system to advocate for the rights of children and vulnerable adults. Through her legal expertise, holistic conflict resolution, and policy advocacy, Donna Sheen has become a driving force within the legal system, advocating for those who need it most. The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) congratulates Donna Sheen, the 2023 Keith A. Miller Award recipient. It expresses deep appreciation for her invaluable work in advocating for the rights and well-being of the disability community.

## 2023 ECHO Excellence Award



The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND), an academic unit of the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wyoming, is honored to have been awarded an inaugural ECHO Excellence Award for the University of Wyoming Project ECHO. WIND was recognized in September at the 2023 global MetaECHO Conference held at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The ECHO Excellence Awards recognize outstanding ECHO teams from around the world for their contributions to the ECHO global community.

Dr. Sanjeev Arora, founder and executive director of Project ECHO, recognized former Executive Director Sandy Root-Elledge's leadership and WIND for their innovation in applying the ECHO model beyond healthcare. Dr. Arora commented on WIND's adaptation of the model, "They were the first to move ECHO beyond health into childhood education, recognizing both its connection to health and the need to expand professional development opportunities for educators in isolated rural areas. They provided the proof point that ECHO not only works for education but has the potential to transform it."

Project ECHO® is an innovative model of professional development, used to build connections and expand best practices for professionals and families on improving outcomes in healthcare, education, and daily living. ECHO participants meet for 75-minute sessions via Zoom, each consisting of a professional development presentation, followed by a unique case presentation or success story. Using a social learning, collaborative model, participants can receive input and guidance from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals, as well as other session participants.

In 2014, WIND launched ECHO networks to support educators, including ECHO in Assistive Technology and ECHO in Autism. WIND has since expanded UW Project ECHO over the last 10 years launching a total of 20 unique networks in education, health, and family support, focusing on broad systems of community support that impact people with disabilities and their families in Wyoming.

Canyon Hardesty, WIND Associate Director, accepted the award on behalf of the WIND Project ECHO team noting, "This award is representative of the organizational, national, and international influence of University Centers on Disabilities like WIND who work alongside communities to co-create accessible and inclusive systems. The ECHO model embodies the spirit of inclusivity and collaboration, transcending geographic barriers and bringing best practices to the doorstep of those who need them. The ECHO model has changed the conversation in health, education, and family support across the globe, and WIND is honored to have been recognized for our contribution."



# **WIND Project Directory**

## **Addressing Bias in Gold-Standard Autism Assessments to Improve the Early Identification of Young Black and Latinx Children**

Eric Moody, Brian Barger (GSU)

With the help and support of NIH and GSU, this initiative aims to tackle bias in gold-standard autism assessments. With a dedicated focus on improving early identification for young Black and Latinx children, the project strives to pave the way for more accurate, inclusive diagnostic practices, ensuring every child receives timely and equitable support on their developmental journey.

## **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, Tai Baker, 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, Emily Kirsch

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**

Terri Wofford

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.

## **Improving Title X Services for People with Disabilities in Rural Communities**

Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Canyon Hardesty, Ally Dudley

Improving Title X Services for People with Disabilities in Rural Communities is possible with the generous support of INBRE and UNLV. this initiative sets its sights on enhancing Title X services tailored specifically for individuals with disabilities residing in rural communities. With a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, the project aims to forge pathways towards equitable healthcare access for all, bridging gaps and empowering marginalized populations.

## **Inventory of Client and Agency Planning (ICAP)**

Dawn Rudolph

The ICAP is a standardized measure used by the Wyoming Department of Health to assess adaptive functioning and behavior issues for eligibility in 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, Amy Rieser

Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the OPIoid Epidemic, aims to train providers nationwide in evidence-based practices for supporting children and families affected by opioid-related issues. WIND collaborates with the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for this initiative.

## **Research and Evaluation**

Eric Moody

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.

## **The Practical Impact of Inequitable Item Responding on the Diagnostic Accuracy of Screening Tools for Identifying Black and Hispanic Children with Autism.**

Brian Barger (GSU), Eric Moody

With the help and support of NIH and GSU, this project focuses on addressing disparities; this research endeavors to reshape diagnostic protocols for identifying autism in Black and Hispanic children.

## **University of Wyoming ECHO**

Sandy Root-Elledge, Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Cari Glantz, Emily Kirsch, Amy Rieser

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 support 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, 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, Shelby Kappler, Krista Zwig

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.

## **Wyoming Act Early**

Canyon Hardesty

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 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, 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, Cari Glantz, Lauren Hulit-White

WY F2F HIC helps to provide access to evidence-based health information, support, and training for families of children and youth with special healthcare needs. Through partnerships between families and professionals, it empowers them to make informed health decisions, improving their quality of life and satisfaction with care.

## **Wyoming Information Link for Developmental Disabilities (WILDD)**

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 support to people with developmental disabilities, family members, providers, and state agencies. 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, Brittany Brigham

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

