



## CHAMPAIGN COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

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### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

*PLEASE REMEMBER this meeting is being audio recorded. Speak clearly into the microphone during the meeting.*

#### Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDB)

#### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

Brookens Administrative Building, Lyle Shields Room

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana, IL 61802

**8:00AM**

1. Call to Order – Ms. Deb Ruesch, President
2. Roll Call – Stephanie Howard-Gallo
3. Approval of Agenda\*
4. Citizen Input/Public Participation  
*At the chairperson's discretion, public participation may be limited to five minutes per person.*
5. CCMHB Input
6. President's Comments
7. Agency Information  
*At the chairperson's discretion, agency information may be limited to five minutes per agency.*
8. Old Business
  - A. FY 2018 Allocation Decision\* (pages 3-8)  
*A written response from CTF Illinois and a letter from a participant's parent are included for information. A Decision Memo is included in the packet. Action is requested.*
  - B. 2017 CCDDB Meeting Schedule (page 9)  
*A draft meeting schedule is included for information only.*
9. Adjournment

*\*Board action requested*

8.A.



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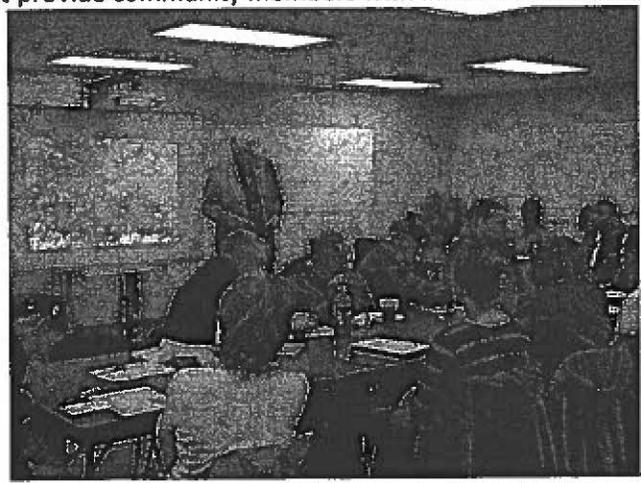
Dear CCDDDB Board:

This letter is written to provide you with a more complete picture of the CTF ILLINOIS Advocacy Center and to explain, in-depth, the great work that is being accomplished as well as the benefits the center has for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the community of Champaign. After a year of planning and implementation, the Advocacy Center is officially up and running, serving as a unique opportunity in Champaign and a place where people are proud to receive services from. The Advocates we serve make a choice to attend the Advocacy Center and are proud of the platforms, education, trainings, and outreach they do on a regular basis to better their lives as well as the lives of their peers and people within their community.

In February, CTF ILLINOIS submitted a funding request to the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board (CCDDDB) for the purpose of Linkage and Advocacy for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The CTF ILLINOIS Advocacy Center in Champaign offers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities an outlet to provide leadership, trainings, and advocacy for other people with disabilities, while raising their voices as advocates in their local community, region, and state.

People who come to the Advocacy Center not only coordinate efforts through established partners, but they also create and utilize their own resources for information sharing workshops, training, and outreach. They raise social awareness and provide education to their peers as well as the local and statewide community. These efforts pave the way for other people with disabilities to live a more meaningful life and have greater opportunities for housing, employment, and community connections that they are passionate about; not just what is simply available to them.

In order to establish additional community connections, collaboration is an essential component within the Advocacy Center. The Advocates collaborate with statewide entities, including Illinois Voice, The Alliance, and Arc of Illinois for trainings and speaking engagements, as well as local providers and resource organizations for employment referrals and informational sessions. Additionally, the Advocates host monthly events that provide community members with informational resources.



*Community Information Night, featuring David Wetherow*

**Mission Statement:** CTF ILLINOIS is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities through services and programs that help them reach their potential in an environment that fosters respect, dignity, and success for each individual.

The Advocates work together to choose and create platforms on various disability topics that are most meaningful to them and create an impact on their lives. Examples of platforms that have been chosen include:

- The R Word Campaign
- Voting
- People's First Language
- Your Rights
- Abuse and Neglect
- Accessibility
- DSP crisis
- Flexible Day Programs
- Managing financial resources

As soon as a platform has been decided, they educate themselves fully on the topic by conducting research, attending trainings, and requesting guest speakers. Once they have acquired the knowledge pertinent to the particular topic, they utilize some of or all of the following methods to advocate the platform most effectively:

- Create and present trainings and webinars for both peers and providers as well as the general community such as schools, universities, businesses, and other local entities
- Host, participate, and speak at local and state conferences, information gatherings, rallies, town hall meetings, and forums
- Write and give radio PSAs as well as participate on local radio talk shows
- Write and distribute newsletters
- Schedule and create a position and "elevator speeches" to meet with local groups as well as elected officials such as the mayor, city planner, police chief, state representative or senator, and other potential candidates and politicians
- Develop and distribute informational material through resource fairs, parades, social media accounts, email, direct mailings, letters to editor, and community events
- Individual peer counseling, advocacy, and information sharing

The Advocates are fully engaged in their community and complete tasks at places such as: schools and universities, government buildings like the courthouse or capital, fairs and resource centers, and local businesses. They make their community a better place by providing quality information on topics that affect those with disabilities the most. An example of this is the "R" Word Campaign. After attending trainings on the topic, Advocates developed informational materials, created and gave presentations to local schools and the University, marched in a parade, educated the community through Radio PSAs, newspapers, and social media, and implemented a petition to end the use of the "R" word.



*Advocates being interviewed on "Disability Beat"*

In order to effectively move any platform, the Advocates must have the skills necessary to implement the various tasks which drive the platforms they choose. Unfortunately, due to the system of care that many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been raised in, their opportunity for education, exposure, and experience regarding advocacy efforts has been limited. The Advocacy Center provides them with this opportunity and helps them gain the education, exposure, and experience needed to develop and build upon the skills necessary to advocate at their fullest potential. Such skills include:

- Public speaking, including body language, eye contact, respectful language, knowledge of the topic, and organized thoughts
- Understanding technology, including using the computer, social media, and smart boards
- Utilizing tools for creating and distributing documents, such as Microsoft Word and Publisher
- Navigating the web and YouTube to use as a tool for research
- Taking pictures or videos
- Developing a presentation using Microsoft PowerPoint

While the focus of the Advocacy Center is on advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the skills that Advocates learn throughout the process of creating and implementing a project not only ensure we have a great platform that benefits the community, but also serve as transferable skills which can help Advocates develop other avenues of their lives. An example of this is an Advocate who attends our program who, in the beginning, did not know anything about utilizing a computer. She started with the basics, and then progressed to using the web. The Advocate now has her own email account, which she used to write a position in support of the DSP crisis as well as to communicate with her family more frequently.

Another example is a participant who, upon attending the Advocacy Center, discovered her true passion is being an Advocate. She had past jobs, but none were a good fit. While at the program, the Advocate participated in every one of the above-mentioned platforms. By participating, she was able to gain exposure and learn soft skills, such as how to present herself in presentations as well as how to write a résumé and submit it electronically. After acquiring the necessary skills, she applied for a job as the Alliance Self-Advocacy Leader. She went through two extensive interviews and, eventually, got the job. She is thrilled the Advocacy Center gave her the opportunity to get paid for doing something she loves.

Lastly, we have an Advocate who chooses to participate in the Advocacy Center in addition to having a well-paid community job. As he states, he is simply not passionate about his job. His dream is to be a public speaker. He feels the Advocacy Center not only gives him the exposure and experience necessary to follow his passion, but is also providing him the education he needs to eventually transition his work in advocacy to a full-time career.



*Advocates engaged at the Alliance Regional Meeting*

Currently, there is a waiting list in Champaign County for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to receive services. As these people continue to wait for assistance, they are left with an array of unmet needs and often have limited access to opportunities for building community connections. Funding from CCDDDB would allow for 185 direct service hours a week to people with intellectual disabilities that do not currently have Medicaid waiver funding or access to other services and who are seeking a place like the Advocacy Center to help raise their voices, engage with the community, and advocate for their rights and the rights of others with disabilities. With funding from CCDDDB, an additional 15 to 20 people from Champaign County will be given the opportunity to become an Advocate and improve their overall quality of life, an opportunity they would otherwise have to wait for on a list that is already far too long.

The requested weekly 185 hours are flexible and will be utilized based on each person's choice of participation. For some, it may mean they participate for just a couple of hours a week. For others, particularly someone with a dedicated interest in a specific advocacy project, this could mean a bigger time commitment of 20 to 30 hours a week. The ability to be flexible with the 185 allotted weekly hours will help ensure each person's choices and interests are taken into account. Regardless of the amount of time each person chooses to spend at the Advocacy Center, their time will be filled with community connections and advocating for causes that will make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

I hope that this information not only gives you a clearer picture of what the Advocacy Center is about, but helps to address and alleviate any concerns regarding the benefits that the Advocacy Center has for the Champaign community and, more importantly, the impact it has on the lives on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I appreciate the time you have taken to gain a deeper understanding of our efforts and accomplishments and hope you consider continuing your support of the CTF ILLINOIS Advocacy Center.

Sincerely,



Melissa McDaniel  
Chief Program Officer

8A.

May 29, 2017

Dear Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board members,

I'm writing in support of the CTF Illinois Advocacy Center. I think you already received an email from me before the May board meeting in support of the program, but I'd like to go into more detail. I listened to the audio of that meeting and heard some of your concerns. My son was the first to join the Advocacy Center in mid-February of this year. He has employment so we weren't looking for a program to help him get a job. If that were the case, we would have contacted DRS (Division of Rehabilitative Services) for employment support. My son has worked 20 hours per week at a fitness center for more than three years. It is customized employment at which he does a great job and earns well above minimum wage. There was a comment about the Center helping people to work full time. There are reasons why he can't and shouldn't work full time. I don't know if there is the possibility for him to work full time at his job. We think he's physically capable of doing the actual tasks that he's assigned, but he definitely can't do all that the other employees do. He does not have the intellectual or social capacity. He is someone who is not left on his own at home or in the community. While he is capable of doing many tasks at home and at work, these are physical things he's been trained in like cleaning machines at work or doing laundry at home. He rarely speaks and doesn't ask for help, let alone carry on a conversation with others. What he needs and wants is to be around others and to continue learning in an interactive way.

At the Advocacy Center, he has case management in which an ISP (Individual Service Plan) was developed with and for him. He has goals that we hope he will be able to accomplish within the year, so he can work on new things. There is so much he needs to work on, with advocacy being at the top of the list. There are many levels of advocacy, and in his case, some of the most basic skills are needed, like saying no, and speaking up for himself. He is able to attend the Center after work for just 12 hours a week, which is something we were looking for. He is picked up from his job, which ends at noon, and is transported to the Advocacy Center. Then he works on his goals there and out in the community. The Advocacy Center is a stable and caring environment, where I feel comfortable leaving him to learn and do not have to piece together child care so I can work. I am also very pleased with the director, Kyla Chantos. They were lucky to find her. As I said in the email, before the Advocacy Center, there was no place for him to go other than an hour or two with CU Special Recreation. DSC, even if they had openings for him, would not take him because he doesn't have funding and they do not take private pay.

I want to make another comment about working full time. If he works a few more hours than the 20 hours a week that he does, he will make more than SGA (Substantial Gainful Employment) and thus will lose his SSI eligibility. He does not receive SSI monetary benefits anymore, as he receives SSDI on his own record and pays taxes, but is still eligible (he has 1619b status) for those benefits which come with being Medicaid-eligible. He needs to stay Medicaid-eligible if he is ever to receive state funding which can include educational programs, but also some kind of housing. He will never be able to live on his own. Those in the group homes I've been in contact with all seem to function on a higher intellectual level than my son. (To show how confusing this all is, just last month we received a letter saying that he made too much money and was going to have a \$409/month spenddown for Medicaid. That limit is lower than SGA, which I didn't know about. It turns out this is an error which we are trying to correct. He will qualify for Medicare in September so that will no longer be an issue.)

I hope that the DD Board can continue to fund the Advocacy Center so that we and others have options. We have a friend whose son is starting there this week. He also has a part time job, so they were not looking for employment, but for an opportunity for their son to learn and not be home with his mother or other hired workers the rest of the time. He has medical needs in addition to a developmental disability, so must be monitored. Please let me know if you have any questions I may answer.

Yours sincerely, Sheila Krein

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**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD FOR CARE AND TREATMENT  
OF PERSONS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY**

**DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** June 7, 2017  
**TO:** Members, Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board  
**FROM:** Lynn Canfield, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR FY18 FUNDING

**Background**

At the regular meeting of the Champaign County Developmental Disabilities Board on May 17, 2017, a motion was made and seconded to approve partial funding of \$60,000 for **CTF Illinois – Advocacy Center**. During discussion, President Deb Ruesch asked Melissa McDaniel from CTF Illinois for clarification on how funding would be used and where services would be provided. Ms. McDaniel described how, in a different community, the organization had moved from use of a large sheltered training/work center to small sites, including a popular advocacy center, on which the Champaign County project is modeled. Dr. Hanley-Maxwell requested clarification on how clients will be paid for work and on the process of moving toward community employment. Ms. Kyla Chantos, also of CTF Illinois, provided detail on the Center’s first year and program development. Collaborations with employers and other provider agencies were discussed. The CCDDDB moved to defer for further discussion with CTF Illinois on the issue of most effective strategies for community inclusion.

**Recommendations**

With suggestions of the CCDDDB, contract provisions for this and other sheltered training/work sites will be developed to support best practices and ensure that each person receives the services they choose and in the most integrated setting possible for them.

**Decision Section**

**CTF Illinois – Advocacy Center**

Request is for \$77,008. Aligns with priorities for Linkage & Advocacy for People with ID/DD, Non-Work Community Life and Flexible Support. To support the transformation from shelter based services to meaningful community life for those served, individual needs and preference assessments are central. The recommendation is to approve partial funding of \$60,000 for **CTF Illinois – Advocacy Center** as presented in this memorandum Motion to approve this recommendation:

- Approved
- Denied
- Modified
- Additional Information Needed

# CCDDB 2017 Meeting Schedule

Board Meetings  
8:00AM except where noted  
Brookens Administrative Building, Lyle Shields Room  
1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, IL

June 7, 2017 – Special Meeting

~~June 21, 2017 – CANCELLED~~

July 12, 2017

September 20, 2017

October 25, 2017

November 15, 2017

December 13, 2017

2018 meetings on the same pattern

*This schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.  
Please call the CCMHB/CCDDB office to confirm all meetings.*