

Community Choices Self-Advocate Feedback  
CCMHDDDB Joint Session  
August 16, 2023

**1. Do you feel you know what the mental health and developmental disabilities boards do? And how can we make our meetings more accessible to you?**

We know that you help make funding available to organizations that support people with developmental disabilities. We know that this happens through grants. We don't really know what else you do outside of that or what your responsibilities are. Or really when you meet and what the purposes of meetings are.

Making that information more public would make you more accessible to us. Continuing to provide a zoom attendance option is helpful, but right now attending meetings isn't an option for those of us that work in the mornings. Advertising meeting dates and times through flyers and a more user-friendly website would also be helpful. Invitations through email, phone calls or texting reminders are also useful.

**2. What would make your daily life easier or better? Are there services you want, but are not getting?**

We had a lot of different answers to that question. In general it would be helpful to know what services exist and have help knowing if I'm eligible for them. More personal support workers would be helpful. Having people to talk to when I have questions.

Resources to help pay for necessities would be helpful. SNAP benefits are not adequate and LiHEAP isn't year-round. Rent assistance is also needed.

The mindset of the community isn't very welcoming. It seems like people judge folks with disabilities and we aren't respected.

**3. Are there supports or services you have now that you would like to keep?**

I like having a job coach. Transportation is also a service I need. I like using Community Choice's transportation and also the ADA.

I like the flexibility I have to be able to utilize supports and services at more than one agency organization. And I like that I can also use my HBS waiver supports to piece supports together that allow me farm at home, use services, and have a social life.

Social and community supports are important for people. Along with being able to learn and practice life skills like cooking or clean.

**4. What do you think is your greatest need for participating in the community? Is the county helping with this? How could we better help?**

Transportation is huge. Funding transportation options is important and the county should continue to do this. Having the financial resources to access activities and events. Can the county provide financial assistance for this?

**5. When you are interested in finding a new opportunity or resource, what do you do?**

Sometimes I'll do an internet search, but usually I go to a resource I'm already connected with and ask them if they know.

**6. What do you recommend the mental health and developmental disabilities board spend their money on and how?**

Keep funding transportation supports.

Have a fund for emergency needs that people can apply for.

Could pay for tickets or the fees for people to do fun things in the community, or fund advocacy opportunities.

**7. The DD board can advocate to the County Board to better support people with developmental disabilities in the community. What would you like us to advocate for?**

It's hard for us to figure out what the county does. Can that information be made more available and easy to understand?

Making areas more walkable and accessible.

Outreach to rural parts of the county and fund services and supports that benefit those areas.

More mental health services and specifically mental health professionals that know how to support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.