

Statewide Consumer Advisory Committee

Consumers reaching out to...

**the local community,
other people with disabilities,
OOD teams and offices.**

Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

– Robert F. Kennedy

www.ood.ohio.gov

800. 282. 4536

The CAC's Purpose

The Statewide Consumer Advisory Committee's (CAC) purpose is to advise the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency (OOD) on vocational rehabilitation programs. CAC members volunteer their time to:

- provide input to OOD policies and practices, including quality assurance feedback;
- educate their local communities about the valuable services OOD provides;
- reach out to people with disabilities; and
- advocate on behalf of people with disabilities.

Membership

The CAC consists of up to seventeen members and two ex-officio members. Twelve members must be former OOD consumers and up to five members may represent consumer family members or partners in OOD programs. Committee members should reflect the diversity of the disability community and all geographic areas of Ohio.

Prospective members may self-nominate or be nominated by others by submitting the CAC Membership Application to the OOD Office of Communications. Selected applications will be forwarded to

the OOD Commission for formal appointment.

CAC members serve a three-year term commencing with the date of the formal appointment. These positions are unpaid. CAC members may be reimbursed for allowable expenses.

Qualifications

Members, or a family member, must have been through the entire rehabilitation process within four years prior to their appointment.

Members, or a family member, must have been successful in finding or keeping a job and engage in constructive dialogue about vocational rehabilitation programs.

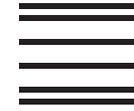
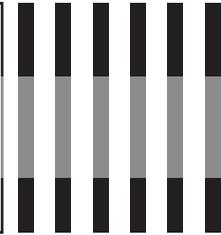
Responsibilities

Members commit to a three-year term. Members may seek a second term, and at the discretion of the appointing authority, the three-year service timetable may be waived.

Members should attend six CAC meetings annually. Teleconference or videoconference participation is permissible and members may participate in any vote. If a member fails to participate in two-thirds of the meetings over a two-year period, she/he may be subject to removal.

Members must volunteer in at least one area (OOD Relations, Community Relations, Peer Relations or others as developed).

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR OHIOANS WITH DISABILITIES
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS -3CC
400 E CAMPUS VIEW BLVD
COLUMBUS OH 43235-9819



Members should participate in training events and exercises, as appropriate.

OOD Support

The OOD Community Relations Liaison has been assigned as the lead OOD staff person to work with the CAC.

OOD Community Relations Liaison:

Shirley Marchi
614. 438. 1477
shirley.marchi@ood.ohio.gov



The Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, genetic information, military status, veterans' status, national origin/ancestry, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

Community Relations

OOD cannot help someone with a disability if they've never heard of us, which is why the agency is stepping up efforts to increase its public recognition. CAC members play a vital role in accomplishing this. When you're active in the community relations area, you may find yourself:

- sharing your personal story with a group of people who want to learn about OOD;
- talking with people about what OOD does at events such as health fairs, job fairs, and community events; and/or
- meeting with disability-related organizations in your local community to talk about ways we can work together.

If you've got a story to tell and want others to hear it, then we encourage you to become active in the Community Relations volunteer track.

Peer Relations

Many CAC members are passionate about working directly with people who have disabilities (peers). For this reason, we offer a volunteer track that will allow someone to use their experiences and insight to help other people who are going through the rehabilitation process with OOD.

If you decide to volunteer in this area, you may find yourself:

- being a "mentor" to someone who is struggling through their rehabilitation,
- advocating for a child or a person with a disability, and/or
- leading a local or online support group for jobseekers who have disabilities.

If you've always been drawn to the social work field, the Peer Relations volunteer track may be right for you.

OOD Relations

People who are interested in working directly with OOD staff members will have a chance to provide input on many different agency issues as well as to be directly involved in some of OOD's initiatives. For instance, you may find yourself volunteering in the following ways:

- providing your input during a focus group session,
- reviewing proposed OOD policies that affect its consumers,
- participating in one of OOD's long- or short-term committees, and/or
- talking to Ohio's lawmakers on OOD's behalf.

If public administration or policymaking sounds interesting and challenging, you may want to volunteer in this area.

I AM INTERESTED IN THE CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fill out the form below, tear it off and place it in your mailbox. The OOD CAC Liaison will contact you soon.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Numbers

E-mail Address

Home Phone

Cell Phone