
The Advocacy Continuum

MODULE IV

What are the Roles of a CAC* Member?

■ Advisor

■ Educator

■ Advocate

The role is dependent upon who you are speaking to or interacting with.

** Community Advisory Council*

My role as an Advisor to the UCEDD*

- The CAC advises the UCEDD faculty and staff about issues that are important to people with disabilities and their family members.
- All issues and opinions are valued and explored. (You can say whatever you want as long as you are polite.)

* *University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities*

Educator or Advocate

- An *Educator* gives people information.
- An *Advocate* tells people what they should do, based on that information.
- Both are important roles.
- Choosing when it is appropriate to *educate* or *advocate* can help you reach your goal faster.



How does my role as *CAC Advisor* fit with my role as an *Educator*?

■ Educating

CAC members educate in the community:

- ❑ Talking to policymakers about the resources of the UCEDD
- ❑ Educating people in the disability system about values, resources, and best practices you have learned about through your experience advising the UCEDD
- ❑ Educating other people who have disabilities, their family members, and community members about the resources of the UCEDD

How does my role as *CAC Advisor* fit with my role as an *Advocate*?

- Advocating

CAC members advocate at the UCEDD, both *in* and *out* of CAC meetings

- “I know my son does not get his needs met in his IEP process: I would like to tell the UCEDD about my ideas to make the school system work better for students with disabilities.”
- “I know of community resources that could help this UCEDD project meet the needs of more people.”

The Advocacy Continuum

The many roles of a disability advocate

Typical CAC activities are shaded

CAC Advisory Capacity



2. Rally against health care cuts at state capitol



4. "I insist you include this in my person centered plan."



5. "This training would be more parent-friendly if..."



8. Help Develop Five Year Plan



1. Participate in civil disobedience



3. ADVOCATE for the needs of PWD's with your legislator



6. "My personal experience helps the UCEDD meet the needs of the community."



7. EDUCATE the community and legislators about the UCEDD's projects

CAC Advisor as an Educator

- People can both educate and advise but they need to know what “hat” to wear for the situation
 - For example, you are a parent of a child with a disability meeting with a polycymaker. The “hat” you are wearing could read “advisor to UCEDD and “family member or self-advocate.”



FAMILY MEMBER



UCEDD ADVISOR



SELF-ADVOCATE

UCEDD Educator



**UCEDD
EDUCATOR**

What can I do/say?

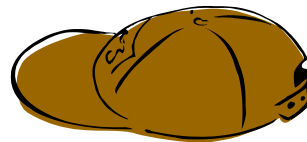
- Talk about why an organization or issue is important.
Ex. *“This bill impacts people with disabilities in this way.”*
- Tell policy makers about the resources at the UCEDD.
- Tell the community about the resources at the UCEDD.

CAC Advisor as an Advocate

- People can both advocate and advise but they need to know what “hat” to wear for the situation
 - For example, you are a parent of a child with a disability participating in a CAC meeting. The “hat” you are wearing could read “advisor to UCEDD and parent.”



FAMILY MEMBER



UCEDD ADVISOR



SELF-ADVOCATE

CAC Advisor as an Advocate

- People can both advocate and advise but they need to know what “hat” to wear for the situation
 - For example, you are a parent of a child with a disability meeting with a public policymaker. The “hat” you are wearing reads “family member” or “self-advocate.”



FAMILY MEMBER



UCEDD ADVISOR



SELF-ADVOCATE

Advocacy Continuum Exercise

- Using the examples you came up with, see where they fall on the Advocacy Continuum
- Can any of these examples be considered more than one type of advocacy?
- List all that apply on your Advocacy Continuum Worksheet





The Advocacy Continuum Worksheet

The many roles of a disability advocate



CAC Advisory
Capacity

Self-Advocacy

Family-Member
Advocacy

Advocacy for Others

Systems Advocacy

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Questions

