

December 9, 2025

Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services

Kathleen Downes, Chair

Chelsey Baker

Hannah Foley

Mark McCarthy

Danny Oster

Kortney Wilcher

Mari Anne Brocker Curry, Director of Housing Information & Marketing, *Ex Officio*

Kiara Drake, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, *Ex Officio*

Maureen Gilbert, Campus Life Coordinator, *Ex Officio*

Robin Kaler, Chief of Staff and Vice Chancellor for Administrative Strategy, *Ex Officio*

Paige Lewis, Beckwith Residential Support Services Associate Director, *Ex Officio*

Dear Students and Colleagues,

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students. We believe every campus community member should be able to live and thrive in their full humanity in all aspects of their academic and campus life. This commitment includes providing equal access to university programs, as well as strong supports for students with disabilities, addressing issues that may negatively affect the lived experiences of students, and advancing clear, concrete, and actionable steps to create change when it is needed.

The Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services will assist my office in identifying opportunities to improve and sustain the Beckwith Residential Support Services (BRSS) program. Kathleen Downes will chair the council and be a liaison to my office.

Members of the council will serve a one-year term and will consist of former BRSS residents and individuals who have expertise in post-secondary education and assisting students with disabilities to transition to independent living (e.g., a personal assistant or a disability liaison). Ex-officio members include the university's Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator or designee, a staff representative from University Housing, a staff representative from Disability Resources and Educational Services, a staff representative from BRSS, and a representative from the Illinois Department of Human Services/Department of Rehabilitation Services (to the extent a representative is made available).

Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services

DATE

Page 2

The Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services is charged with the following primary responsibilities:

- To serve as a resource to the university in support of BRSS' mission and goals.
- To supplement, not replace, the existing internal advisory group comprising of current BRSS residents, disability advisors, personal assistants, and members of the BRSS administrative team.
- To provide a forum for discussion of opportunities, challenges, goals, outcomes, and resources related to BRSS.
- To provide feedback to BRSS and university leadership regarding the above.
- To review feedback from the BRSS suggestion box and an annual satisfaction survey of BRSS residents and recent alumni.
- To work with the university to address any concerns raised.

The Chancellor's External Advisory Council on Beckwith Residential Support Services is expected to meet twice per year. Once a year, the council will provide survey results and findings as well as their recommendations for follow-up actions.

The committee meets virtually in November and April, if possible, on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. You will receive an invitation to these meetings.

Thank you again for agreeing to serve in this important role for our university.

Sincerely,



Charles L. Isbell, Jr.
Chancellor