**Laci Cornelison**

Welcome to the At Home podcast. I'm Laci Cornelson, and today I'm joined by Renee Porter of Dooley Center in Atchison, KS. Hello, Renee.

 **Renee Porter**

Hello! Today we're discussing the peak advisory group.

**Laci Cornelison**

Can you tell us about this group, and your role in it.

 **Renee Porter**

Our Peak Advisory Group is a group of individuals that work together to help develop and give feedback to KDADS and suggestions to improve our peak initiative in Kansas. It is a group of providers and the Ombudsman and the peak team that the workers from the peak team and KDADS professionals and together we all work to provide that guidance and make suggestions for the improvement of our person-centered care initiatives.

 **Laci Cornelison**

How might somebody who's interested get involved with the group?

 **Renee Porter**

Well, we have an application process that we go through that takes place in late spring, early summer. And then there's a panel of professionals that review all of those applications that are submitted, and they select those that are most qualified based on that process to bring us feedback and insight to help make improvements to our program and that add value and benefit to our advisor.

**Laci Cornelison**

So, I know you've been on the group for a while. Could you speak to some of the biggest accomplishments that the advisory group has had since you've been a part of it?

 **Renee Porter**

I think our biggest accomplishment was getting the entire program kind of newly designed. There's still the criteria, but it's more up and coming and we got it passed through K dads. It's supposed to be released in January of 2023. But our group accomplished this while going through the pandemic and just stayed innovative and up and coming and took all the challenges that have been expressed and tried to incorporate that into the newly designed program and then got it through, KDADS. I'm really excited about that work and excited to see it happen in real life.

**Laci Cornelison**

I've heard that the group is working on a conference coming up around person centered care. Can you tell me more about that?

**Renee Porter**

I'm really excited about the conference. It'll be the first one that we've ever run. It's going to be on October 25th of 2022. We're going to hold it at K state at the Union Ballroom and you know, we really just want to focus on designing an education for providers that comes in a different way. So we are expecting people to provide caregiving and a different format and it's being more personalized and to make an impact on someone's life or caregiving. And we want to try and give that same impact through our education. It's, it's pretty exciting. It's kind of a new and innovative way. We're working our way through all the details, but I think. It's going to really incorporate not only the importance that people can accomplish, accomplish person centered care, but hopefully break away some of those myths and challenges that we've had of why people think they can't do it.

**Laci Cornelison**

It sounds like the educational sessions are going to be different. Can you give me a little glimpse into that? Do you mean by that?

**Renee Porter**

We've kind of come up with a whole different outlook. We're going to have hopefully some residents there who have had the impact of person-centered care, so you're not just hearing it from the provider. But we're also going to have different providers that maybe we've never seen before in conferences that are presenting and they're presenting based off of their experience. It's going to be more hands on, it's going to be the kind of a stationary where we can pass through stations. We're hoping that people bring their whole teams, not just their administrative team, but their direct care workers, including housekeeping and dietary and laundry and we want those teams to split up. We tend to stay together when we go to a conference with our people that we know. And the whole idea is that we not only give you a different experience and teach you about person centered care, but that we give you the resources and contacts to have colleagues who may be going through the same thing and the same challenges.

**Laci Cornelison**

That sounds great! Would I expect to have providers be the ones presenting the information?

**Renee Porter**

We will have providers presenting and not just, not just general sessions or speakers that we've heard, its actually providers presenting on the different core elements. To help you develop your programming, give you new ideas, give you that hands-on experience. So, I'm really excited about it.

**Laci Cornelison**

What would you say is you've been a part of the planning of it excites you most about the event and that you want people to know.

**Renee Porter**

I'm excited about giving education and a different format. Not just going to a conference room and sitting at a table all day and sitting with the same people, but also, I mean, changing the way we're educating. But there's just some fun elements. We're going to have some great general session speakers. We're going to have some residents there. We're going to have the providers presenting, but we're also going to give recognition to people who are with their team members. You know, awards and different encouragement to keep people motivated. So really, I'm just kind of excited about the whole event.

**Laci Cornelison**

And so, if somebody is interested in registering for this, what do they need to do?

**Renee Porter**

The registration is on the case website, and you can go to that website, and I think, you know, one of the other things that's very exciting is that you can register your direct care workers who don't need the CEO's for really a minimal fee. It covers their lunch, so you don't have to pay for their lunch fees. You know, we have discounted hotel prices and. All that information is on the case website.

**Laci Cornelison**

Thank you for your time today, Renee. We hope that our listeners will come to the conference and experience it for themselves.

**Renee Porter**

That would be great.