

Kara Ayers, PhD (she/her/hers)

Associate Director & Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati-UCEDD
Director, Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities



Kara Ayers, PhD, is the Associate Director and an Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). She is Director of the Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities. In collaboration with Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center, the Center for Dignity developed a dashboard to track vaccine allocation plans related to disability. The Center for Dignity also commented upon and advocated against the multiple rationing plans released by states at the start of the pandemic. Work in this realm continues as medical rationing is an ongoing problem faced by people with disabilities. Dr. Ayers' professional interests include disability identity/culture, bioethics, community inclusion, and the use of media to teach, empower, and reduce stigma. She serves on multiple task forces and national and state coalitions related to improving outcomes for people with disabilities and infuses the mantra, "Nothing about us without us," into all of her scholarly and community-based pursuits.