

## **OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE**

### **Minutes**

**May 13, 2011, Pleasant Hill Library, Pleasant Hill, Iowa**

**Voting Members Present:** Randy Davis, Dawn Francis, Steve Garrison, Ray Gerke, Alice Holdiman, Geoff Lauer, Jerry Mayes, Rik Shannon, Casey Westhoff, Janie Woodhouse. **Voting Members Present by phone:** Carrie England, Janice Hoffman, Jim Paprocki , Doug Sample, Ingrid Wensel

**State Agency Representatives Present:** Robin Jenkins, Joe Sample, Jean Johnson , Terry Rosonke, Rhonda Bennett, Deb Johnson, Patrick Clancy, Diane Blackburn

**Guests and DHS staff present:** Bob Bacon, Ann Riley, Brooke Lovelace, Jule Reynolds, Liz O'Hara, Connie Fanselow, and Becky Flores

**CALL TO ORDER.** Meeting was called to order by Chair Jerry Mayes at 10:05 AM and turned over to Vice Chair Geoff Lauer to conduct the meeting as Jerry is recovering from illness. A quorum was present. Dawn Francis moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Janie Woodhouse. **The agenda was approved unanimously.** Jerry Mayes moved to table approval of the May 13 minutes, seconded by Janie Woodhouse, as different versions were available hard copy and by e-mail. **The motion to table carried, with Dawn Francis opposed.**

**BUDGET AND FINANCE.** Terry Cunningham will present a proposal for OCTF collaboration on a project called The Voices Project to the Public Information Committee. The collaborators would be looking for approximately \$3052 in funding from the Taskforce. The Committee can bring the proposal forward. Dawn Francis suggested another Public Information project be brought forward. It is modeled on the awesome website and Public Service Announcements that the state of Kansas uses. The Taskforce Executive Committee is putting together a framework for a Taskforce budget to present to DHS.

### **BYLAWS**

**Motion 1** is a Bylaws Committee recommendation as described on the handout. The motion was seconded by Dawn Francis. The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion 2** is a Bylaws Committee recommendation as described on the handout. The motion was seconded by Jerry Mayes. The motion carried unanimously. **Motion 3** changes numbers of voting members to 21. It is a Bylaws Committee recommendation as described on the handout. The motion was seconded by Jerry Mayes. The motion carried unanimously. **Motion 4** is a Bylaws Committee recommendation as described on the handout. The motion was seconded by Dawn Francis. Consensus was reached in discussion that there was no intent to put anyone out of office immediately. There was also consensus that the limitation on terms of office was not intended to prevent a person from serving in a different office (being Chair and then being Secretary, for example). The motion carried, with one abstention by Jerry Mayes.

This issue was put in a “parking lot”: whether bylaws should be amended to avoid need for a second and third reading to become final.

**Committee Assignments for 2011** (until the 2012 annual meeting), based upon the results of the recent survey of preferences:

Nominations Committee (5): Carrie England, Ray Gerke, Alice Holdiman, Connie Smith, Janie Woodhouse

Public Information Committee (6): Randy Davis, Steve Garrison, Janice Hoffman, Linda Moore, Jerri Sloan, Connie Smith

Legislative Study Committee (8): Randy Davis, Dawn Francis, Geoff Lauer, Jim Paprocki, Doug Sample, Ingrid Wensel, Rik Shannon, Casey Westhoff

Strategic Planning Committee (5): Paula Connolly, Steve Garrison, Alice Holdiman, Jim Paprocki, Doug Sample

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Public Information Committee: No report.

Nominations Committee: Considering recruitment suggestions from Jim Paprocki, Terry Cunningham, and others.

Legislative Study Committee: Will consider DHS Olmstead state plan ideas when they meet.

Strategic Planning Committee: No report.

**FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UPDATE.** Bob Bacon recently attended a presentation by Alison Barkhoff, special counsel for Olmstead Enforcement, in Washington D.C. Implementation of Olmstead is top cross-agency priority of the administration. 35 states have DOJ activity, including settlement agreements, finding letters, and responses to complaints by individuals. A state of Virginia findings letter includes observations about sheltered workshops and PASRR.

**MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON DISCUSSION** (not on agenda)

Brooke Lovelace talked about the May 2011 MFP update. She reported they did not meet their initial goal of numbers of people helped to leave institutions. Their goal is now 75 individuals per year, which they have not quite met this year. Beds “left behind” when the MFP people move out are refilled with new people moving in. Rhonda Bennett, Department of Inspections and Appeals, reminded the Taskforce that some ICF-MRs are very small and can be considered to be already in the community. Bob Bacon announced that the Money Follows the person federal grant has now been extended through 2016, and they are hiring an additional Employment Specialist to work with this program. Bob Bacon will send the job announcement. It requires a bachelors degree and is posted on Jobs information at the University of Iowa.

**Iowa Co-Occurring Recovery Network (ICORN) update.** This group is working with national advisors Minkoff and Cline to help providers better address people with multi-occurring disorders. People can attend continuing Iowa training opportunities. Bob Bacon, Casey Westhoff, and Geoffrey Lauer from the OCTF are part of ICORN.

**DHS UPDATE.** Though no legislation has passed to date, it looks likely that the legislature will mandate workgroups coordinated by DHS to produce legislative recommendations by October in the areas of adult mental health, developmental disability/intellectual disability, adult brain injury, child MHDD BI, and regional infrastructure for mental health and disability systems. \$250,000 will be available to help with staffing of the legislative workgroups. More specifics on what the legislature might pass this year are unavailable at this time.

Regarding implementing Iowa Olmstead State Plan priorities, Olmstead Taskforce needs to lean on Legislature to do what law requires. Doug Sample recently was on a teleconference that talked about the Georgia experience with Olmstead compliance. Apparently in the Georgia case, lack of waiver slots was not an excuse for not providing services. Go to [www.iowaplan.org](http://www.iowaplan.org). to find the latest actions taken on the 18- month Olmstead State Action Plan. The DHS April report is posted there.

DHS representatives were pressed to publicize measurable timetables for progress. The OCTF sees itself as having an accountability duty, and it cannot monitor DHS progress without those specific quantitative (and qualitative) measures in place. DHS representatives said they will push toward that. There are huge binders of books on the internal efforts of DHS available in the Division, though the work plan may not be as detailed as what the Taskforce is asking for. The Taskforce does not want to look back at the end of 2012 or 2013 and say “Ok, some things happened and they looked kind of Olmsteady.” It is important that the Olmstead Plan that the Taskforce worked on be the guide for the work the legislatively mandated workgroups do this summer.

Janice Hoffman talked about the need for a handrail in the restroom where she lives. There was acknowledgement of the need for IFA and DHS to be involved in reviews of funding for building or apartment living so that the needs of people with disabilities are considered.

## **LUNCH**

A quorum was re-established for the afternoon

## **TASKFORCE DISCUSSION**

There was consensus that the Taskforce should have at least one member on each of the workgroups mandated by the legislature this summer.

## **STATE AGENCY REPORTS**

**Diane Blackburn, Marshalltown Veterans Home.** The Veterans Home is really a nursing home. It is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest nursing home in the United States. She is working on the re-entry (into the community) program. 54 people have been moved out. One half are in conjunction with Hazelton model called “living your life in balance”. Some individuals have part time income that helped them go into community. But a lot of them are not able to work. There is a program called VA VASH. This program gives vouchers for Veterans in certain geographic areas. Des Moines tried for priority vouchers but was not successful. Individuals that are eligible can waive the cost of care for three months, and this is very helpful. Some of the individuals in residential part of the VA hospital are not eligible for SSI and have to wait until they move out to apply. Then it is hard to find the money they need to live. Federal VA has a grant per diem for individuals that are working with a caseworker. There is also the HUD VASH money, which is money for homeless vets. Some individuals are on the physical disability waiver. Strategies for doing something to get services until the money starts:

- She follows people for about a year
- VA has a vocational specialist with reentry to work or school
- IDEA programs work in 8-12 months

The Veterans home residential program remains full, and has waiting lists. Diane is trying to help vets that are young get back into workforce. It would be nice to have some money to pay for furniture, deposits. The Veterans Administration sets the number of housing units available. That can superseded by the HUD waiting list. Public Health supports their program, and local VA satellite health care has expanded to locations beyond Knoxville, Des Moines, and Iowa City.

It used to be that an individual discharged from a residential facility was considered homeless and went to the top of the list for housing through local public housing authorities. That is not true now. Dawn Francis questioned this, saying the local PHAs can get sued if they are not compliant. Advocates need to work with apartment owners to assure that needed housing is available. Terry Cunningham will send a guide from the Steve Gold Network regarding advocating with local public housing authorities.

**Rik Shannon, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council.** The Council will make local grants available this summer.

**Terry Rosonke, Iowa Finance Authority.** The HCBS Rent Subsidy Waiver has 338 participants statewide. In 2011 \$487,000 was expended. The budget for the rent subsidy waiver is holding strong. Currently they are processing some more applications. There may be an across-the-board cut for next year. In Des Moines, applications for Section 8 will be opening up soon. People are expected to apply for section 8 to maintain HCBS rent waiver subsidy eligibility. A new revolving loan fund was proposed for Medicaid waiver eligible individuals, but it did not pass the legislature. Instead, there is a direct appropriation to a local provider.

**Jean Johnson, Department of Economic Development.** Jean described her Department's work: it tries to look at the big picture of economic development. That includes more jobs and better jobs. They target certain kinds of jobs. "Green streets" is her branch. It serves on Early Childhood Iowa, because early investment in youngsters is the future workforce. The DOM was active in the 2007 successful campaign to create 1,000 new or rehabilitated housing units for individuals with disabilities. Jean is looking at how the DOM might contribute to Olmstead issues. Possibilities include

- Using the Community Development Block Grant (a federal grant from HUD)
- Using Career Link, which is to help under-employed individuals into better skilled, higher paying jobs. They haven't funded anything here for last four years. Criteria should include persons with disabilities
- Interacting with Employers Disability Resource Network.

**Joe Sample, Department of Aging.** The Aging and Disability Resource Center has received 200 contacts in the last 6 months. The Department of Aging has contracted with the Department of Human Services regarding the "Section Q Minimum Data Set." This is the federal mandate that people be assessed regarding health conditions, treatments, abilities, and plans for discharge as they enter skilled nursing facilities, and quarterly, yearly, and whenever there is a significant change in an individual's condition. Due to these assessments in the preceding quarter, 13

people planned to move out of nursing homes. One did move out. The biggest challenge is that often an individual spends down resources in order to be Medicaid-eligible, so there is no funding available for start up costs back in the community until other funding begins.

The aging network is undergoing major changes due to new law found in House File 45. The existing network of 16 Public Service Areas and 13 Area Agencies on Aging has been abolished, with a mandate to “make it smaller”. They are to go through a Request for Proposal Process to do this, with no funding provided to do it. Joe urged the Taskforce to be part of the forums as this restructuring happens so that disability interests are represented. The plan has to be in place by December 15, 2011. He will make sure the Taskforce receives notice of public meetings. He asks for guidance on producing talking points. There will be a website.

The Taskforce discussed aligning new regions with the mental health/disability system county groupings of regions or housing trust fund regions.

**INSTITUTIONAL COSTS AND COMMUNITY LIVING COSTS** (not on agenda). The Taskforce discussed showing the cost differences between community living and living in a nursing home or in the Marshalltown Veterans Home. The Money Follows the Person handout shows the annual cost of public and private ICF-MR stays. However Iowa is not closing the beds behind those that are transferring out, so Iowa is not realizing cost savings. Janice Hoffman noted that she gets sick a lot less at home than she did when she lived in the facility. Possible approaches to this issue were described as “bean eaters” versus “bean counters”, that is, looking at quality of life versus what it costs. A certificate of need process determines need for new beds. The Taskforce discussed advocating against new bed certifications, and for policy changes to prevent backfill of ICF-MR beds.

**Patrick Clancy, Board of Regents.** The School for Braille residential unit is closing. Providing community services for the children previously served in residential will be costly, so it is not about saving money. It is about quality of services. The school is facing a legislative budget cut.

**New Business.** After discussion, it was agreed that the Executive Committee would give guidance on a process for deciding what Taskforce expenditures are appropriate, what projects and ideas to fund, and how the Taskforce is to work with DHS to assure that Taskforce priorities are funded.

**Member Announcements and Public Comment.** Geoff Lauer reminded members to turn in their conflict of interest forms.

The Taskforce committees were reminded to elect chairs by June 6. The meeting adjourned at 3:00.