

Draft Minutes Olmstead Consumer Taskforce July 8, 2011
Pleasant Hill Public Library

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

Voting Members Present by phone:

State Agency Representatives Present: Robin Jenkins, Joe Sample, Jean Johnson, Carla Pope for 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, Becky Flores

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jerry Mayes at 10:05. The Agenda was approved. A quorum was not present so the approval of minutes from March 11, 2011 and May 13, 2011 (Attachments 1 and 2) was delayed.

Taskforce actions recommended by the Legislative Study Committee

Dawn Francis gave the Legislative Study Committee report and asked for approval of the committee recommendations from attachment 3. The Committee is recommending that the Taskforce take specific actions in support of many of the Olmstead State Plan projects that DHS has prioritized for implementation January 2011 through July 2012. The recommended Taskforce action on each project and today's decisions are summarized below.

1. "Disability employment." A coalition of people working on this issue continues with Sarah Renner of DHS/IME providing leadership. The Taskforce recommended to Sarah, via an e-mail from bob Bacon during the meeting, that a Taskforce member be on this committee as it continues its work. Done.
2. "Advocate for all types of disabilities." Taskforce members were recommended for redesign workgroups. (later note: most got appointed, check the website to be sure

<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/>) Recommendations were children Paula Connolly; brain injury Geoff Lauer, mental health Jerry Mayes; intellectual disability and developmental disability Casey Westhoff and Dawn Francis; regional administration Rik Shannon.

3. “Websites and Information and Referral.” Casey Westhoff and Joe Sample will continue to update us on what is happening. Joe Sample says COMPASS, 211, and family caregivers, together with Iowa Nebraska AIRS, have come together to consolidate their systems. They at DOA are now writing a grant with those groups to get fed funds. Alice asked the information and referral systems to remember services that are available across state lines are included, like in Decorah. Joe says regional Aging and Disability Resource Systems will probably be responsible for making sure all of that is included in the database.

4. “Family to Family and Family Navigators” <http://familytofamilyiowa.org/>, Paula Connolly will continue to update us on what is happening and advocacy opportunities. Paula said that a network of Family Navigators now exists to help families find the resources they need. An on-line system is available, free, to anyone that wants to study the course material that leads to credentialing as a Navigator. The Family Governance Council is now looking at ways to sustain the system of navigators when the federal grant funding runs out.

5. “State Employment Leadership Network (SELN).” Casey Westhoff is on this group and will continue to update us on what is happening and advocacy opportunities. The SELN is a national project. It started last year in Iowa with collecting data about what we want our system outcomes to be on people with disabilities in employment, how to measure that, and what workforce is available and desirable. SELN is guiding DHS efforts to focus its programs and projects to support people with disabilities in jobs. Iowa is on the national radar because of its efforts to combine Money Follows the Person work with SELN work. Two Medicaid Infrastructure grants will be awarded to address issues in this area.

6. “HCBS Waiver Rent Subsidies.” “The Olmstead Consumer Task Force will advocate with the state legislature to expand funding for HCBS Waiver Rent

Subsidies”. There are currently no recommended actions for this priority. Carla Pope reported that Iowa Finance Authority anticipate that next year funding for the HCBS Rent Subsidies will be adequate.

7. “Advocate with local public housing authorities” “The OCTF will develop a plan to help communities become involved in advocacy with local housing authorities on Section 8 Housing access for people with disabilities, mental illness, or brain injury. The Taskforce will also be involved with planning for local housing Disability Health Project with Len Sandler of the University of Iowa College of Law.” Recommended action: develop talking points from federal letter of recommendations to local housing authorities. After discussion, recommended action expanded to asking OCTF members to advocate with their local housing authorities.

The Iowa Finance authority has been working with their Federal HUD partners to help IFA educate local PHAs on what they must do and what they can do under federal law to help people with disabilities get into appropriate housing. They have also been working on affirmative marketing plans, and they have working with developers to include certain amount that is to help people with disabilities. The Taskforce could be an advocacy group in support of these actions. In addition, members urged that appropriate housing for the frail elderly on the assisted living continuum be given consideration. Joe Sample urged us to advocate for home purchasing versus rent, as a very cost effective public investment.

8. “Direct Care Workforce.” The recommendation was to have a member on the Workforce redesign committee, but there is no Workforce Redesign committee at this time. Doug Sample volunteered to represent the Taskforce on this workgroup.

9. Hold periodic community public forums for consumer input across the state on DHS Mental Health and Disability Olmstead State Plan. Recommendations: co-sponsor public input meetings on the DHS Mental Health and Disability System Redesign with DHS, much like the OCTF did last year with the DHS Olmstead State Plan for Mental Health and Disabilities. Meeting agenda recommended by Geoff - overview of Olmstead, what Iowa has done, overview of DHS State Olmstead Plan.

Educate PWD and others, and get input from PWD and others, and get involvement of PWD and others.

10. “Periodic review of State Plan.” Recommendation is to keep momentum of state agencies other than DHS going. Each state agency was urged to look at and implement its own Olmstead State Plan, and if it is not current, to update it and let the Taskforce know of your progress. The Taskforce thanked the Department of Corrections for presenting its updated Olmstead State Plan.

11. Advocate for system funding through participation on redesign workgroups. Paul Connolly noted that the Federal reduction in funding for PELL grants for college students will affect people with disabilities.

A quorum was now present so the chair asked for a motion on the recommendations from the Legislative Study Committee. MOTION: Doug Sample moved that all the recommendations of the Legislative Study group listed above be implemented. Alice Holdiman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes Approved

With a quorum achieved, the chair asked for a motion on approval of minutes from March 11, 2011 and May 13, 2011 (Attachments 1 and 2). MOTION: Alice Holdiman moved and Ray Gerke seconded approval of both sets of minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Strategic Planning Committee

Co-Chairs are Steve Garrison and Paula Connolly. The Committee has met once since the last meeting of the whole. The committee agrees that the 11 action items just presented by the Legislative Study Committee are a large part of the actions that the OCTF should be taking this year, but there may be additional actions. The focus should remain on building community capacity. They have no specific strategies to recommend at this time. It was suggested that the Taskforce consider

a more assertive role, like doing a report card on actions taken by DHS and other agencies.

DHS update by Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief, Community Services Division, Mental Health and Disability Services

- Expect a new DHS Administrator of the Mental Health and Disability Services Division by fall
- Likely Governor will soon sign Senate File 525 authorizing redesign of Iowa's mental health and disability services system. Theresa outline with work that will take place this summer and fall, and the opportunities for advocacy input through public meetings coordinated by the OCTF, the Mental Health Planning council, and the Office of Consumer Affairs.
- Disaster behavioral health work is taking place in Western Iowa because of flooding and the threat of flooding. The Disaster Behavioral Health Team is trained volunteers that go through a national training. It has been a huge effort. Deb Johnson of Iowa Medicaid Enterprise had meetings with all the case managers for the individuals with disabilities that were affected.
- The Medicaid changes in respite hours and chore service rules were questioned. Theresa will ask Deb Johnson to further address this issue.

Todd Lange, Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)

In January 2011, DHS awarded a contract to the Iowa Advocates for Mental Health Recovery to serve as Iowa's Office of Consumer Affairs. The Office of Consumer Affairs is to represent the interests of mental health consumers, both adults and children, as they interact with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

The contract calls for a new structure for the Office of Consumer Affairs. The structure includes leadership by Todd Lange, and five paid part-time Regional Coordinators, in each of the 5 DHS Regions. Each region also has a volunteer Advisory Council of about 8 members, so the total personnel of the Office of Consumer Affairs is about 35 people.

The interaction between OCA and DHS is to flow two ways: the OCA is to spread information about DHS policy and actions to mental health consumers via its newsletter and public forums; and the OCA is to collect and organize information from mental health consumers and convey that information to DHS. OCTF members will be put on the OCA newsletter distribution list.

Carolyn Lange, Hillcrest Family Services

This presentation described a peer driven, peer run service in Dubuque at Hillcrest Services Inc. It is funded by a grant from Magellan. People in recovery, experiencing trauma, brain injury, or disability are all eligible for its services. It is called the Wellness Center. Peer run services are integrated with clinical professional services within the same space.

The same grant establishes a 23-hour crisis bed in Decorah, where both hospital staff and trained peer support specialists can lend support. Carolyn presented other aspects of what the Wellness Center is doing and what can be done to effectively use peer support in crisis stabilization and recovery. She referenced the recommendations of the Acute Care Taskforce as an excellent resource on this subject.

OCTF discussion of Money Follows the Person Report

The OCTF discussed whether beds were being closed when people moved out of State facilities and into communities using Money Follows the Person grant. Despite Olmstead advocacy, people are still on waiting lists to get into ICF-MR facilities. There is a Certificate of Need process that limits the number of ICF-MR beds. Questions were raised as to whether the Taskforce is doing enough to change the culture to one where community living is the first option, and moving to a facility the last.

State Agency reports

Joe Sample, Department on Aging: He would like to see an expansion of available Options Counseling. This could prevent people from going into nursing homes in the first place. How can we get Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) folks trained on these programs like Hillcrest Wellness Center? ADRC personnel must be “dementia friendly”, not sure what that means. He is looking to the OCTF for a letter of support for a grant application that is coming up soon. The group through consensus agreed to issue such a letter of support.

Kris Weitzell, Department of Corrections (DOT): All DOT employees have recently gone through mental health training. It is a two-day training with Protection and Advocacy (now Disability Iowa) and the Iowa chapter of NAMI (the National Association for Mental Illness). A big obstacle on re-entry issues is community resources. It costs \$35,000 per person in prison for a year. There are some good community resources such as those in Clayton County, Marshall County, and in West Burlington. These are done.

Carla Pope, Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), substituting for Terry Rosonke: IFA has a program that pays rent subsidies for people that would otherwise be in nursing homes. The program currently serves 356 participants. More popular with real estate developers to create “ROSE”, which is Rent to Savings Ownership Equity. This program sets aside a portion of the rent paid by the tenant in a specific savings account to be used by that tenant to purchase a home or their own when they leave tenancy. If they don’t buy, goes to other tenants. At end of 15 years, they can purchase where they are living at reduced price.

They have another model of affordable assisted living that supports independence. The tenant can choose support. It is consumer directed care. Primarily available to.

Another program through new Iowa legislation is for Medicaid eligible persons, approved through the Department of Human Services. There must be a developer in the community that wants to do this. It is a revolving loan fund, Housing and Community Services Revolving loan fund. IFA provides loans to modify homes to serve these out of state or violent individuals. It can be new construction or modification.

Section 8 average cost per person per month is around \$360. ROSE: what is the purchase price? Don't know. The largest public housing program in U.S. is run by the Internal Revenue Service.

Doug Keast, Iowa Workforce Development (IWD): Workforce center integration is going pretty well. Now co-enrolling people in as many programs as they can when they walk in the door with better customer service. In contrast to 2006, more people disclose their disability. Now everybody gets a work plan. Completing that integration process will happen over the next year. One of the challenges is more programs than staff. The goal is to have a disability expert on each center's team. This used to be a Navigator. Doug may call upon OCTF to talk with regional IWD boards. Traditional labor exchange system needs to look at disability subsets to better serve some subsets of disability people. IWD is trying for some new grants.

Announcements

- Doug Sample saved money for a good chair. The state matched the Credit Union account and made purchase possible.
- Dawn Francis is grateful that the Centers for Independent Living will get \$40,000 from State Legislature next year.

Adjourn