**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**

**March 8, 2019**

**10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill**

**Conference Call-In: 888-290-7502, Participant Code 29273924#**

**AGENDA**

**Taskforce Members Present:** Mari Reynolds, Len Sandler, Kris Graves, Lisa Pakkebier, June Klein-Bacon, Kay Marcel, Kathleen O’Leary, Dawn Francis, Jenna Batten, Gary McDermott, Paula Connolly, Harry Olmstead, Randy Davis

**Others Present:** Terri Rosonke, Connie Fanselow, Theresa Armstrong, Ronee Slagle, Kim Barber, Brooke Lovelace, Lindsay Robertson, Lisa Schneider, Derrick Willis, Julia Ganda, Jorrell Watkins, Page Eastin, John McCalley, Pam Heagle, Katrina Carter

**Staff Support:** Anne Crotty

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Review, Additional Items, and Approval of the Agenda**

Len Sandler motioned to approve. Mari seconded. No discussion. Motion passed (no nays or abstentions). Agenda approved.

1. **Review, Corrections and Approval of the Minutes of the December Meeting**

Kay Marcel requested follow up on whether there was analysis on whether the tier rates are appropriate. Theresa Armstrong explained that changes to the tier rates had to be budget neutral. All of the rate tiers were reviewed and the adjustments that were made after analysis indicated that necessary services to individuals funded at the lower tier could be delivered within the new rate structure. Kay also requested information on whether the Executive Committee sent a letter to Congressman Loebsack. The letter had not been sent yet. Kay made a motion to accept the minutes. Lisa seconded. No nays or abstentions. Minutes approved.

1. **DHS / IME Updates** – Theresa Armstrong

* There are Senate and House bills for the development of the children’s behavioral health system. Legislation gives additional responsibility to DHS for responsibility for children’s state board, coordination and collaboration with other state depts for development and maintenance of the system, as well as data collection with factors like school attendance. The Legislation includes requirements for management of children’s system, the development of administrative rules, the development of outcomes for children’s system, and an annual report. The State Board will include representatives including: a state court administrator, an advocacy organization, a children’s mental health provider, an AEA administrator, a counselor from a school district, parent/guardian, a CEO of a MHDS region, a sheriff, a pediatrician, a representative of health care system, representatives of the Departments of Human Services, Education, Public Health, Workforce Development, and non-voting members of House and Senate.
* Regions will be responsible to fund services for children under age 18 who are residents of Iowa, have been diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance, and whose family income is under 500% of the federal poverty level. For those with family income between 150 and 500% of FPL, there will be a co-pay based on a sliding fee scale. Services include prevention, early identification, assessment, prescribing and medication management, outpatient therapy, inpatient treatment, and comprehensive crisis therapy regardless of diagnosis. Children are not required to show that they have an SED before receiving for crisis services. An amendment was added to make sure DHS and IDPH include children in the 24/7 crisis line. As in adult system, they are adding core plus services: behavioral health school-based therapy, family and peer support, day habilitation, supported employment, prevocational services, service coordination that follows systems of care principles. The bills are HSB 206 and SSB 1197.

Other legislation and points of interest:

* + Mid Iowa Health System offered DHS grant money to review behavioral health screening and create recommendations.
  + HF 296 - Requires pre-screening and a level of care assessment before someone goes on a waiver waiting list, so they can go on the right waiting list and not multiple waiting lists.
  + HF 294 – Would eliminate the cap on the budget for the Brain Injury waiver and requires DHS to track what is expended.
  + HF451 – DHS currently has inpatient bed tracking for open psychiatric beds. This bill would establish a work group and allow DHS to improve bed tracking system to facilitate locating inpatient services closer to home and care coordination. Passed the house committee.
  + SF 270 would require mental health education and suicide prevention in high school health classes. Passed out of committee.
  + SSB 1240 – If passed, will allow using telehealth to increase access to mental health care in schools. It will include procedures to assure consent, notifying parents, and keeping records.

Discussion:

* June asked if the advisory committee will include people that are contracted to manage therapeutic foster care system. Theresa responded that the state board will include a child welfare provider.
* Mari and Harry asked for more information on data collection and outcomes. Theresa explained that data collection is still being developed, but will include some data that is specific to children, such as school attendance.
* Sean said he appreciates the thought and effort that has gone into assuring broad representation on the State Board.
* Kay asked if there has been discussion on whether the Governor will include additional funding next year for the children’s mental health system. Theresa responded that the legislature is still discussing funding for the MHDS regional system. No specific additional funding for regions has been identified as yet, although the Governor recommended $1.2 million to reduce the Children’s Mental Health Waiver waitlist and funding to provide mental health services in schools.
* Harry asked if services will be available to children in residential treatment. Theresa clarified that such services are not required as a core service, but any children in residential treatment who need these services will be eligible.
* Len suggested expanding beyond AEAs to allow easier collection of data across platforms, as information may not flow up or down. He said that local governing boards will have an AEA administrator, but advisory groups will include others from school systems.

1. **Continued Discussion of Legislative Priorities**

* Dawn is composing a letter to Senator Loebsack on reintroducing the Disability Reintegration Act. Kathleen suggested Kathleen suggested asking Rep. Cindy Axne to sign on as cosponsor the DIA.
* Dawn suggested not setting official priorities, but monitoring issues and sending letters as needed.
  + Home Modification bill is SF 190. Would help people who own their home and need to modify it to allow them to age in place.
  + Wages for direct care support professionals – the National Association of Direct Care Support Professionals has been trying to professionalize the direct care support profession. Dawn has noticed pushback on professionalization because of the need for formal training, even though person with disability feels that they can train someone themselves who may not have the time or money for formal training. We also must raise the wage to a living wage and determine how to get the caps raised.
    - Action item: Can taskforce write letter to Jerry Foxhoven to ask what DHS has done already and encourage raising the wages of direct care workers? Could the state provide health care for direct care support professionals? Tracy Keninger, Kay Marcel, and Lisa Pakkebier will help.
    - Action item: Kay will ask Sens. Mathis and Regan about SF 156 and what the next steps are.
* Reps. Art Staed and Lisa Heddens have bills to carve out Medicaid from long-term care in the House. Iowa Parents for People and the Iowa Hospital Board are supportive of carving out Medicaid for long-term supports and services as well. Lisa suggested putting effort into raising the caps instead of carving out long-term supports.
* Refueling assistance – There is a need to require convenience stores to have at least one accessible gas station and button to tell staff inside that someone needs help pumping gas.
  + Action item: Contact US Access Board that sets standards; determine if they can add it into ADA or other laws. Contact Janet Peterson about possibly sponsoring legislation.
* Housing issues
  + Due to not being able to pay staff, Kay explained concerns that people who need to live alone or with a small group due to behavior issues are required to live with 3-4 other people because it’s not financially sustainable to allow them to live with a smaller number. This exacerbates behavior issues. Lisa explained host home model where a provider oversees a sponsor of a person with a disability that is on a waiver. The model allows the person to host someone with a disability in their house. They have not put used the model for people in higher tiers yet. Suggested looking at other models from other states as well.

1. **Letters to State Agencies and Legislators**

* Dawn explained that a letter was sent to the Iowa Department of Education regarding changes to the restraint and seclusion rules in schools.

1. **Taskforce Committee Reports**
   * Executive Committee Report

No report.

* + Medicaid Committee Report
    - Harry spoke with Jane Hudson from Disability Rights Iowa. In 2018, they had 80 cases resolved with Medicaid. They have resolved 15 so far in 2019.
  + Nominations Committee Report
    - Discussed when new members start and will determine if we need to propose a change to the bylaws.
  + Olmstead Plan Committee Report
    - Connie Fanselow is using data to look at outcomes of the taskforce. She is filling in data points and will present a report to the taskforce at a future meeting.
    - Paula suggested sending a letter to all state agencies asking who the best contact person is.
      * Action item: Connie will report outcomes of the OCTF at a future meeting as a separate agenda item.
      * Action item: Draft letter for state agencies to assure representation.

1. **State Agency Reports** 
   * Iowa Finance Authority
     + The HCBS rent subsidy program is back up to 87 people on the waitlist, or about 6 months. It Provides rental assistance to about 315 people who are receiving services on the HCBS waivers. It is a bridge rent subsidy program, where applicants must be on waitlist for section 8 housing. If they receive a section 8 voucher or other form of rent subsidy, they go off the waitlist.
       - Action item: Terri will ask if IFA has data on the number of people who leave the waitlist to go to institutions.
     + Every five years, IFA must update the consolidated plan that tells HUD what Iowa’s priorities are and how the state plans to spend the funding. IFA will reach out to the OCTF Executive Committee this summer to share drafts and public hearings this summer.
     + The IFA Board of Directors approved awards for Home program, which funds tenant-based rental assistance and homebuyer assistance programs. A portion of the funding is targeted to people with disabilities, people with low-income, and those who are homeless.
       - Harry asked if IFA took money out of the fund to settle the sexual harassment claims. Terri Rosonke explained that the state paid $1.4 million to settle two sexual assault cases. IFA must reimburse the State of Iowa for the funding. The money will eventually come out of the multi-family rental fund. It will not affect existing clients, but IFA will not be able to use the money for other projects for future clients.
     + Dawn asked if IFA would consider partnering with others to fund tiny homes? Terri responded that developers could apply to build projects, though it may be a challenge to get neighborhood or zoning approval. Joppa has proposed a tiny home village in Des Moines Joppa recently completed a cottage home, which is bigger than a tiny home. All IFA programs have requirements to be accessible. Paula – In rural areas, sometimes families can set up cooperative arrangements to share a provider and coordinate the hours to meet the needs of each person.
   * Iowa Department of the Blind
     + Thank you Len Sandler for working with the department.
     + Dawn Francis will be talking with the commission board in June to discuss SILC.
     + Will produce a 15-20 min video with overview of services for new patrons and volunteers.
     + Staff presented to the Education Subcommittee on the need for an increase in the budget to fund another teacher. This must go to House and Senate and will be put it in as a line item budget.
     + Circulation for the previous quarter was 67,812 users; there were nearly 1600 subscribers to the newsline.
     + The Vocational Rehab director is completing a statewide needs assessment to develop a statewide plan and to enhance services and service delivery. Iowa Department of the Blind is contracting with San Diego State University to complete the report by August 31.
     + Developing a request for proposals for that develop trainings would provide pre-employment transition services for students who are blind. They will make an announcement by early March.
     + Beginning a Workforce Innovations Disability and Employment Cohort focused on improving customer service at Iowa Workforce Development offices for people with disabilities.
     + Partnering with Iowa Workforce Development Will develop an apprenticeship pilot with the support of the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTECH) to assure apprenticeship programs are accessible to people with disabilities.

* Iowa Workforce Development
  + - Began a community partner group to discuss how to improve services without duplication. Employers are struggling to understand what programs are and the benefits for the businesses. Will offer a summit for businesses with topics such as labor laws, accommodations, a reverse job fair, and a vendor fair to allow vendors to network with partner agencies. Date and location to be announced.
      * Action item: Ronee will send information Anne to send out to OCTF when available.
    - Legislation will fund Future Ready Iowa $15-20 million for credentialing beyond high school. It will fund 3 scholarship programs, including the Iowa employer Innovation fund to help employers be innovative.
    - Partnering with the Volunteer Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service to provide training on hiring processes, implicit bias, screening applicants, and attracting diverse candidates.

1. **Taskforce Member Reports**

* Paula Connolly and Dawn Francis: The Together We Can conference is May 4 in Des Moines, with LeDerick Horne as the keynote speaker. The Statewide Independent Living Council has funding to allow people to attend the Leadership and Self Advocacy track *and* the SOAR conference in Missouri, if individuals are willing to attend both. The funding will pay for Personal Assistant for up to $10/hour, hotel, transportation, and admission to the conferences. Individuals must live in Iowa, have a disability, commit to attending both conferences, and be able to participate in regular teleconferences for one year afterwards.
* Len Sandler: Thank you to the taskforce for submitting a letter on seclusion and restraint in schools. Also thank you to CDD and Mary Roberts for sponsoring a workshop for community members on the proposed rules. The next step is to convene the working group to review comments and determine how to respond. Anyone is welcome to send any additional comments to Len.
* Len Sandler: The Supreme Court upheld the lower court’s decision that the State cannot deny benefits to individuals, such as gender affirming surgery, solely on the protected class of a person. This may have repercussions for other topics as well.
* Dawn Francis: There is an open position for the Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living in Iowa City. Dawn will send out the position announcement.

**V. Public Comment**

* + Derrick Willis: Legislation will extend Money Follows the Person to fund some transitions, though not at the same level as before. They will also develop a sustainability plan so transitions continue after MFP sunsets in 2021. They are developing training modules focused on sustainability.
  + Derrick Willis: CDD has a open position to support the children’s mental health board.

**VI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.