**Agenda**

**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**

**July 12, 2019**

**10:00am – 3:00pm**

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

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

**Minutes**

**Taskforce Members Present:** Dawn Francis, Paula Connolly, Lisa Pakkebier, Tracy Keninger, Kay Marcel, Brittney Montross, Michael Martin, Kate Thompson, Mari Reynolds, June Klein Bacon, Gary McDermott, Mary Roberts, Renee Speh, Harry Olmstead, Kris Graves, Kathleen O’Leary, Alexandra Bomhoff

**Others Present:** Michael Martin, Terri Rosonke, Connie Fanselow, John McCalley, Jim Pender, Emily Berry, Kim Barber

**Staff Support:** Anne Crotty

1. 10:00 **Welcome and Introductions**
2. 10:10 **Review, Additional Items, and Approval of the Agenda**

Kay motioned to move the nominations committee report to before DHS/IME updates. Lisa seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed. Agenda approved.

1. 10:15 **Review, Corrections and Approval of the Minutes of the March Meeting**

Kay noted a mistake in the May minutes. Minutes will be corrected to state that Disability Integration Act as the correct name. With this correction, Paula motioned to approve minutes. Mari seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

1. 10:20 **Action Items**

* Discussion and Vote on Proposed Changes to the Bylaws
  + - * Kay’s request to remove the statement that members are confirmed was approved. Kay made a motion to approve changes to the bylaws. Alex seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
* Discussion/Approval of Nominations Committee’s Recommendation for New Member
  + - * Mary Roberts summarized an additional new member starting in September. Cynthia Shouse has lived experience as a self-advocate and plans to continue the advocacy of her mother, Rhonda Shouse. Mary motioned to accept Cynthia as a new member. Mari noted that some members do not attend as often as is required by the bylaws. Suggestions included having a list of expectations for the OCTF staff person and a notebook to handoff between executive committee members. Kate suggested creating an attendance form. The bylaws state that after the third absence, the executive committee will meet with the member and possibly declare seat vacant. Mary made motion to accept Cynthia as new member. Brittney M. seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
* Officer Election for Vice Chair
  + - * Dawn explained that we will have officer elections at the next meeting and requested people consider running for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Lisa Pakkebier will run for vice chair. Paula suggested having a second person in training. Mari and Paula have been trained in “Serving in Groups” training. After Dawn’s term ends, Dawn will to stay on the Executive Committee as a non-voting member. Paula moved to accept Lisa as vice chair. Mari seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

1. **10:45 DHS Iowa Olmstead State Plan – Update & Discussion - Connie Fanselow**

* The data report is being modeled after the Olmstead Plan framework and will have indicators of progress and go from one set of indicators to the next. The report will detail how Iowa is doing in getting people with disabilities employed, housed, and providing access to community services. It will be a high-level data report and provide a snapshot over time, with links to drill down and look at data in more detail. There is not funding available to collect additional data. Data must be already available from somewhere else.

**Discussion:**

* There was discussion of why regions may not be meeting all access standards, barriers to doing so, and how to address regions not meeting requirements. Connie explained that all individuals may not be able to get the exact services they need within the time and distance standards, but that does not mean they do not have needed services available to them or that they do not receive the service – they may need to travel a little farther or wait a little longer until the service network is fully built.
* Connie said that regions have wide latitude on how to allocate funding and establish cost-sharing requirements. Regional funding is based on county property taxes, and the amount of tax dollars available varies greatly.
* Kay said that providers are moving people from 2 person to 4-person homes without their choice. Consumers often have limited recreation options due to limited staff. She said the rate providers receive does not financially support 2-person homes and staff is difficult to find due to the reimbursement rates and other factors. Dawn suggested the state create a health care insurance and training program for staff. Michael noted a need to increase the ratio of staff members to consumers as well.
* Lisa said that the Iowa Association of Community Providers is developing a tool to allow providers to gather data and create a legislative plan to increase the wage of direct support workers. Lisa will share info with the Olmstead Taskforce members to review and possibly support. There is no planned action on health care at this time.
* Lisa noted that Iowa Medicaid Enterprise and Iowa Total Care is surveying providers on opportunities for improvement. This is a positive development.
* Paula suggested working with Iowa Association of Community Providers to create a list of questions needed to gather information that will assist in the campaign to professionalize the direct care workforce.
* Kay will lead a subcommittee to further discuss Iowa’s response to the integration mandate.

1. **12:00 Lunch**
2. **12:30 DHS & Mental Health and Disability Services Update – Connie Fanselow**

* Gerd Clabaugh, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, has been named interim director of DHS. Gerd will head both IDPH and DHS until a new DHS director is selected.
* MHDS Division Administrator, Rick Shults, had planned to retire this week. He has agreed to stay on for a while and will announce a new retirement date when that date is identified.
* The Children’s Behavioral Health Board was appointed as part of an executive order from the Governor. The board made recommendations for the implementation of a children’s behavioral health system and legislation based on those recommendations was passed and signed into law during the 2019 legislative session. That legislation created a new ongoing Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board and Governor Reynolds has appointed members to the new Board representing different partners in the child behavioral health system. Other members who are not Governor-appointed include: one member representing the MHDS commission; four agency directors or designees, two non-voting senators, two non-voting representatives. DHS provides staff support and is hiring an additional UI employee to fill that role.
* Also related to the Children’s Behavioral Health System, the Universal Screening Panel is a group of experts that is developing a plan to assure all children are screened in some way for mental health problems. MDHS got a grant from Mid-Iowa Health to assist in planning the implementation of universal screening. The panel will look at factors such as confidentiality and the appropriateness of screening tools for different settings and ages of children. They will make recommendations to Children’s Board.
* House File 690 required MHDS commission to adopt rules that define services in core domains, service definitions, provider standards, service implementation dates, and design services so they are the same as Medicaid when possible. There will be new core services for children that include: prevention, early intervention and education, assessment and evaluation for eligibility, outpatient therapy, inpatient treatment, crisis stabilization – community based, crisis stabilization – residential, and mobile crisis response. There is no additional funding attached, though providers are allowed more flexibility in how and when they spend their current fund balances. Eligibility for behavioral health services other than assessment and crisis response services is limited to Iowa children under age 18 with a diagnosis of a serious emotional disturbance. To receive regional funding, children must have family income that is under 500% of the federal poverty level (FPL), with a cost share for families at 150% - 500% FPL. The regional governing boards will be adding the following members to their boards: an adult who utilizes services; a parent of child who utilizes services, an education system representative, and a children’s provider. All are voting members except the children’s provider representative. Regions will also be required to develop advisory groups for the children’s behavioral health system. Rules will need to be approved by the full MHDS Commission, and required to be submitted for public notice by January 1st.
* As part of HF 690, DHS is developing a 24-hour statewide mental health crisis line serving children and adults. DHS is working with the Iowa Department of Public Health and Foundation 2 to expand the YourLifeIowa website to include mental health information for children and adults. They had a soft start in July 2019.
* As of July 1, Woodbury County moved to the Rolling Hills Region and Lyon County moved to the Sioux Rivers region. There is a new map and updated contacts on the DHS website.
* The Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams have been serving people in Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Woodbury, and Mills counties. Some of these areas have been designated as national disaster and will be getting more assistance. DHS applied for a program to allow crisis counseling and training for the first 30-45 days after disaster and received an extension for another 30 days. DHS is waiting for a decision on whether they will receive funding for the Regular Assistance program. This would be an extension of the immediate service program and would likely be available August 2019 – May 2020.
* The legislature appropriated $1.1 million to increase the rates for assertive community treatment. The legislation increased the daily rate to $55.03, from $51.07. IME is accepting comments on the rate change until July 29.
* The legislature appropriated $1.2 million to reduce the children’s waiver waitlist. IME has been determining how many slots they can release with that additional funding. The first slots will be released on July 22nd.

**Discussion:**

* Michael requested information on what is in the MCO contracts on how long they must remain in the state and how much notice they must provide if they choose to leave. John McCalley explained that there is a severance clause in contracts with IME with that determines how much notice the MCO must give notice before they leave the state. Iowa cannot prevent a MCO from leaving, though MCOs do have responsibilities to gradually transition if they leave. They must maintain a member services phone line and payment system after they have left to assure claims are processed and members can get information for their care.
* Kay requested information on whether home and community-based providers will see a rate increase as a result of the increase in daily rates. Connie said she does not have any information indicating that there would be an increase for community-based providers.
* Kay asked if there are there any preventative services assigned to the new system. The screening recommendations will be put in place. Core services include prevention and early identification and education, which will likely include children without a firm diagnosis.

1. 1:00 Committee Reports

No committee reports

1. 1:30 State Agency Reports

* Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) – Terri Rosonke
* The Home and Community-based Services rent subsidy program continues to operate, with 322 participants and 78 on waiting list. This amounts to approximately a 12-month waiting list. The Iowa Legislature passed non-reversion language, which means that if any funding is left at the end of the fiscal year, IFA can keep the funding for next year.
* Iowa Finance Authority is still the process of updating their consolidated plan.
* IFA is also in the process of updating their Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan. Terri will share the plan with the Taskforce when it is available for public comment.
* Iowa Department of the Blind (IDB)– Kim Barber
* The Iowa Department for the Blind is considering changing their name to the Iowa Library for Accessible Statewide Services. They put a great deal of thought into this change and settled on this name because they believe it does the best job of describing their current and planned services.
* The Iowa Department for the Blind will host a series of three Community Forums in Des Moines, Iowa City, and Sioux City. These forums will seek conversation and dialogue on topics such as services to adults and older adults, how to best use the youth space, how to make the college and career commons most useful to job seekers, and how to engage and sustain the Youth Advisory Committee.
* The Iowa Department for the Blind Aids and Device Store will close on July 31, 2019. The store had a net loss of $35,281 in fiscal year 2019 and required up to 16 hours per week of staff time that could otherwise be available to conduct application intakes for the Independent Living and Vocational Rehabilitation programs. IDB will use the area for the College and Career Commons. It will contain technology and resources to assist clients and patrons wishing to attend post-secondary education or find employment.
* Iowa Department of Public Health
  + The IDPH Disability and Health program continues to work to reduce health disparities experienced by individuals with disabilities by promoting programmatic, policy, systems, and environmental changes to increase accessibility and inclusion. This includes projects such as:
    - Including a disability question on the Iowa Youth Survey.  Data from the survey will be analyzed to determine what health inequities are experienced by youth with disabilities
    - Providing technical assistance to IDPH programs, including consultation regarding the addition of a disability question as part of the intake process for the QuitLine and technical assistance to the maternal and child health program to develop information about reproductive health for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
    - Funding disability organizations and local public health to make programmatic, policy, systems and environmental changes to increase access to recreational activities and increase physical activity.

**Discussion:**

* Kay mentioned a funding opportunity through the Administration on Community Living that will provide $150 million in vouchers for approximately 18,000 families. The vouchers would provide sustained, community-based, and integrated housing for non-elderly people with disabilities. Local housing authority agencies would need to apply; Iowa Finance Authority is not eligible.

1. 2:00 Taskforce Member Reports

* Paula Connelly noted that ASK Resource Center is sponsoring four September showings of the Intelligent Lives documentary in Davenport, Fort Madison, Sioux City, and Council Bluffs. This film is appropriate for children over age 14.
* Paula will also offer an interactive training titled “Wait a Minute, I Disagree” on the types of decisions agencies make and how to appeal a decision. Paula can also host trainings as needed for groups of 10+ people.
* Kay noted that the Des Moines Register and AARP are holding four presidential forums that will be livestreamed on the Des Moines Register’s website. Kay submitted a question regarding the shortage of direct support workers.
* Dawn provided an update on the Together We Can and Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution (SOAR) conference. Governor Reynolds appointed several people under age 30 to the council. They have been learning about statewide disability-lead groups in four other states. The Iowa Center for Independent Living (CIL) would like to start a leadership and self-advocacy in Iowa. The CIL sponsored people with disabilities to attend the Together We Can and the SOAR conferences in Iowa and Missouri. The date for the 2020 Together We Can conference is Saturday, May 2nd.

1. 2:30 Public Comment

No public comments.

1. 3:00 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.