**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**

**November 8, 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, Lisa Pakkebier, Tracy Keninger, Kate Thompson, Brittney Luth, Paula Connolly, Kay Marcel, Kris Graves, Cynthia Shouse, Jessica Johanns, Jenna Batten, Michael Martin, Daryn Richardson, Renee Speh, Gary McDermott, June Klein-Bacon, Joel Vander Molen

**Others Present:** Alex Bomhoff, Kathleen O’Leary, Tammie Amsbaugh, Brooke Lovelace, John McCalley, Connie Fanselow, Kim Barber, Lin – Dept of Public Safety, Kelsey Lawson, Pam Heagle, Derrick Willis, Archy Gomba, Terri Rosonke, Harleigh Baldridge

**Staff Support:** Anne Crotty

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

Kate motioned to move Terri Rosonke to after the first two agenda items. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed. Agenda approved.

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

Jessica motioned to move to approve the minutes. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

1. 10:20 **Iowa Finance Authority Update – Terri Rosonke**

* Nancy Wallis is retiring the first week in February 2020. She has administered the HCBS Rent Subsidy Program for several years. IFA is currently in the process of hiring her replacement.
* The IFA Board of Directors approved the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program Qualified Allocation Plan for 2020-2021. Terri explained the IFA’s Olmstead Goals in the Qualified Allocation Plan, which were kept in place. Federal law requires that 5% of housing must be made accessible for people with disabilities. IFA requires a min of 10% of housing to be fully accessible as a threshold requirement. It also awards points for developers that make a higher percentage of units Type A Accessible.

Discussion:

Members asked if there is a list of available properties and noted that perhaps they are difficult to fill because they are not near public transportation or have other supports needed. Terri explained that complaints may not be data driven and that all LIHTC properties and their unit vacancies are listed on the [www.IowaHousingSearch.org](http://www.IowaHousingSearch.org) web site. Members requested data for next meeting on pockets where there may be a concern. The data system doesn’t track each accessible unit specifically – only the total number of accessible units in a project. The IFA system tracks number of people who are head of household with a disability based solely upon voluntary reporting, not others in the household who might have a disability. Terri is willing to come to future meeting to brainstorm solutions. Kay motioned to send thank you letter to IFA for supporting accessible housing. Cynthia seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

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1. 10:45  **DHS Update – Connie Fanselow**

* The new Director of Iowa Department of Human Services, Kelly Kennedy Garcia, started this week. She will be invited to an Olmstead meeting at a future date.
* DHS budget for FY20-21 was submitted to DHS Council and was approved to submit to Governor Reynolds for consideration. It is $7.3 billion, which includes state and federal dollars. There was a requested increase in the reimbursement rates for the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for people with mental illness, with hopes of getting closer to the actual costs of providing ACT services. There is also a request for increased funding for services for children and those with complex needs who are Medicaid eligible.
* Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is writing administrative rules that will require use of the Mayo Portland Assessment.
* The YourLifeIowa helpline answers calls about gambling, substance abuse, suicide. They are adding resources on mental health for adults and children. Eventually all regional crisis lines will transition to YourLifeIowa, so there will be one statewide crisis line.
* The administrative rules for the children’s system were sent to the Commission and approved. Connie expects that the administrative rules will be in the next bulletin and out for public comment for 20 days.
* The Children’s System State Board met and continues to work on identifying the most urgent needs to direct the board’s focus as it moves forward.
* O’Brien County is leaving the Northwest Iowa Care Connection region and is moving to the Sioux Rivers Region, effective 7/1/2020. Muscatine County voted to leave the Eastern Iowa MHDS Region and applied to join Southeast Iowa Link.
* The Children’s Mental Health waiver is adding approximately 300 slots per month for children’s mental health. They are limited in how quickly they can open because it requires confirming a child’s eligibility and enrolling them in Medicaid.
* There have been several recent changes in staff members. Marissa Eyanson is the Bureau Chief for Medical and Long-term Services and Supports Policy. She is joined by Amela Alibasic, Bureau Chief for Medicaid Eligibility Policy. Mary Stewart is the new Bureau Chief of MCO Oversight and Supports.
* Medicaid is developing single form to streamline the credentialing process.
* The DHS and IDPH Directors have been collaborating to develop a plan to address co-occurring mental health and substance abuse concerns. They conducted a focus group of individuals, families, and community providers to obtain feedback on how the state can better integrate these systems. They will send a report to Governor Reynolds by December 15 with recommendations.
* FamilyFirst is an initiative that is occurring in the Adult Family and Children Services Division to better serve children that present with the most complex service and behavioral needs. They are noticing that there are children who are living in shelters and that have serious behavioral needs, who may not be getting the services they need. The plan may include a higher level of care for those that need it or a similar track for children with higher needs.

**Discussion:**

* Paula asked if there is an effort to reduce the waiting list for the Home and Community-Based Waivers or if she has information on the reasons for restructuring the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC). Connie does not know of a specific request regarding waivers or have information on the MAAC. Dawn requested that the Connie convey that the OCTF has the following concerns and questions:
* Reductions in the number of organizations represented on the MAAC
* Reduction of the total committee members limits feedback options to determine any concerns individuals, family members, and providers experience accessing care.
* Requesting clarification on the oversight role of the MAAC given the restructuring of the membership roster
* Will standard information provided by MAAC still be requested from MCOs and available to the community?
* Renee said she’s excited that the state is trying to make process of finding ID/DD placement easier. Lisa asked if providers are invited to participate in the RBSCL discussions. There are several providers who previously provided RBSCL services and quit providing services, who may be interested in meeting this need again. Connie explained that DHS has discussed providers’ experiences and is currently determining what the system will look like.
* Brittney shared her brother’s experience of participating in Crossroads (a work and dayhab program) in Muscatine. He is losing his job because Crossroads is leaving the region. Connie explained that if Muscatine joins another region, it will depend on the services and supports available in that region. She suggested contacting a staff member new region to determine which supports and services would be available.
* Kay asked if Connie knows how supported community living hours will be allocated if people are on an hourly rate. June Klein-Bacon agreed that they would request information on this rule. June heard that a memo was sent to the MCOs stating that they were not allowed to provide more than 8 hours of supported community living hours for the Brain Injury and Intellectual Disability waivers, even though that is not what the administrative code states. Connie will determine who to ask for more information.

1. **12:00 Lunch**
2. **12:30 Olmstead Plan Update**

* The data for current Olmstead plan is not as helpful they anticipated. Regional dashboards, reports from MCOs and personal experience (PE) survey questions from IME. Connie would like to brainstorm with Taskforce on how improve the quality of data that describes the experiences of people with disabilities in Iowa. No money allocated. The PE interview goes to HCBS recipients in Iowa quarterly on a rotating basis. 120 questions total and there could be several reasons for the large amount of missing information in the data collection.

Discussion:

* Michael asked why survey doesn’t include people who live in ICF-ID. The survey is done because the HCBS requires that it is done as a quality control mechanism. ICF-ID does not require this.
* Tracy asked what the next steps are to address identified quality control issues. Connie explained that this is done on an individual basis and that there are catches within the system to assure that someone follows up with the individual. The survey is done by an individual within the MCO serving an individual and the data goes to the MCO, then to Medicaid. Questions cannot be added to the survey, but some may be able to be changed. The Olmstead Plan Committee will determine what questions they want answered and will send to Connie.

1. **1:00 Review Committee Assignments**

* Medicaid Committee – Brittney Luth, Daryn Richardson, Kris Graves, Cynthia Shouse, and Michael Martin are new members. Paula Connolly and Kris Graves are co-chairs.
* Olmstead Plan Committee – June Klein-Bacon, Dawn Francis, and Brittney Luth are new members. June and Kay are co-chairs.
* Community Access Committee – There are no new members.
* Nominations Committee – June Klein Bacon and Jessica Johanns are new members.

1. **1:15 Committee Reports**

* Olmstead Plan Committee
  + June Klein Bacon provided an overview of the survey results. The survey validated what people have been saying regarding loss of services, transportation, and choice. Committee plans to do follow-up with those that provided contact information.
  + Michael suggested getting stories anonymously and Paula suggested that the taskforce devote a meeting day to allowing people and providers to share their stories. ASK Resource Center may be able to help fund transportation. Kris Graves, Michael Martin, Paula Connolly, and Kay Marcel will help organize the event.
  + Jenna explained that the United Spinal Foundation’s group Upgrade Medicaid is doing collecting stories regarding the direct care workforce and home and community-based services and would like to partner with OCTF. Motion by June, second by Kris. Motion passed to host a Day in the Life event.

1. **1:30 Legislative priorities**

* Increasing wages for direct support professionals. Low wages lead to high turnover and higher rates of abuse and neglect. It would be helpful for Dawn to connect with Shelly at IACP. IACP asked for a 10% rate increase, which would raise the average DSP worker’s wage by $3 (average wages are rural $10.94 in rural areas and $11.25 in urban).
* Increased funding for the children’s mental health system
* Accessible and affordable housing
* Increasing habilitation rates
* Kay made a motion to made motion to allow the executive committee take action to allow the Executive Committee to write a letter to Governor Reynolds supporting an increase in wages for direct care workers and other action needed. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

1. **1:30 State Agency Reports**

* **Iowa Department of the Blind – Kim Barber**
  + The Director requested $166,000, plus state match, in funding from Governor Reynolds to fund a 4+ program to serve transition age youth who are blind. requested $166,000 for 4+ program, plus state match. The total cost will be $700,000. The program would serve high school students who are blind who have not met IEP goals in living, learning, working and will be based in Des Moines. Kim requests a letter of support from OCTF in support of the 4+ program. Jessica motioned allow the Executive Committee write letter. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
  + **Iowa Department of Human Rights – Lisa Schneider**
  + The Office of Persons with Disabilities is collaborating with the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) to provide consultation as IVRS does outreach to the deaf and hard of hearing community.
    - **Disability Rights Iowa (DRI)– Jane Hudson**
      * DRI is investigating deaths at the Glenwood State Resource Center. Hired nurse to investivate and is making recommendations.
      * DRI is working to make the Iowa caucuses accessible. There is a minimum of two people to apply to be a satellite caucus and it can be an individual’s home. Anyone can apply to be a satellite caucus site. The deadline to apply is November 18.
      * DRI is collaborating with the Center for Disabilities and Development to conduct a needs and barriers assessment at the Woodward State Resource Center on assistive technology.
      * DRI is doing a pilot project at the Boys State Training Center. They want to stop the use of solitary confinement and the use of 18-point wraps.
      * Conducting a needs and barriers assessment to assist Des Moines Public Schools in reaching out to Latinx populations.

Discussion:

* Lisa noted that DRI hosted a Disability and Fashion event recently and partnered with DMACC to have students design fashion for models with disabilities. They will partner with DMACC again next year, but will focus on technology and graphic arts.

**Discussion:**

1. **2:00 Taskforce Member Reports**

* Kay Marcel noted that on Nov 15 the US Commission on Civil Rights will host event on the Section 14 waiver programs. The public can accept written comments until December 15.
* The results of the survey conducted by the Olmstead Plan Committee and DHS’s responses to questions on the OCTF website.

1. **2:30 Public Comment**

* Harleigh Baldridge is having problem finding out the process to become an independent Consumer Directed Attendant Care provider. There is an extensive amount of paperwork. This difficulty is likely contributing to the shortage of direct care workers.

1. **3:00 Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.