**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**

**May 8, 2020**

**10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

The May meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to COVID 19. In person meetings will resume when it is safe to do so. A link to the meeting is posted on the agenda. Agendas are posted on the OCTF website.

**Minutes**

**Taskforce Members Present:** Jessica Johanns, Mary Roberts, Dawn Francis, Tracy Keninger, Joel Vander Molen, Brittney Montross, Jenna Batten, Lisa Pakkebier, June Klein Bacon, Kay Marcel, Cynthia Shouse, Mari Reynolds, Kim Brown, Gary McDermott, Kris Graves, Daryn Richardson, Paula Connolly, Michael Martin

**Guests:**  Bob Lincoln, John McCalley, Brooke Lovelace, Pam Heagle, Kim Barber, Geoff Lauer, Jim Pender

**Staff Support:** Anne Crotty

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

Mari motioned to approve the agenda. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion carried.

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

Michael motioned to approve the minutes. Paula seconded. Motion approved. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

1. 10:20 **Iowa DHS Update – Connie Fanselow**

* Most DHS staff are working from home due to COVID-19, with the exception of field staff. Connie shared the COVID-19 websites for the State of Iowa and MHDS and sent the resource COVID-19 and Your Mental Health via email. Staff have been in contact to share verbal guidance regarding services accredited by Chapter 24; telehealth and telephone options for accessing services are being allowed whenever appropriate.
* Marissa Eyanson has been hired as Director for Community Services and Planning. Cory Turner has been appointed Interim Administrator for Division of Mental Health and Disability Services - Facilities.
* DHS was awarded a collaborative grant with the Iowa Department of Public Health to deliver outpatient mental health or substance services via telehealth. The $2M grant will begin in August 2020 will include funding for up to 500 individuals to receive substance use disorder/mental health treatment and supports, transportation, phones, data, and the expansion of warm-line services to include recovery coaches and peer support specialists. The program will also provide additional resources on Your Life Iowa for health care professionals.
* Iowa received a presidential disaster declaration for individual assistance, which is limited to the Crisis Counseling-Individual Assistance Program. This allows the State of Iowa to apply for a 45-day grant, which will focus on mental health outreach, counseling, and services. Iowa has received this type of funding before, though this grant would be done virtually and statewide. Areas of focus include: agricultural fields, rural mental health, and substance use disorder children and families, individuals who become unemployed, non-essential/essential staff, veterans and military families, older adults and people with developmental disabilities. Some of the providers include: Abbe Center for Community Mental Health, Inc., Pathways Behavioral Health, ISU Extension, CDD, and Heartland Family Service.
* MHDS regions submitted their annual plans for review by DHS. Regional service coordination continues via phone with in-person contact with social distancing. Regions have adopted Medicaid guidelines so will continue to pay for those services delivered via telehealth or phone.
* Dickenson and O’Brien are leaving NW Care Connection to join Sioux Rivers. Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth counties are joining Northwest Care Connections. This leaves Emmett County not contiguous to other counties, which remains unresolved. Muscatine has been assigned back to the Eastern Iowa Region. Two regional CEOs are retiring as of June 30; replacements have been hired and are training.
* The Children’s System State Board is determining how Iowa’s reimbursement rates for children’s mental health services compare to surrounding states. The Board will hear from MHDS Regional CEOs about their Children’s System Transition Plans. The Outcomes and Metrics Subcommittee has been identifying outcomes and indicators while building on existing data systems. The children’s system rules were adopted and now are part of Chapter 25.
* The Department of Justice concluded the investigation of the State Resource Centers. The most recent visit was conducted virtually due to COVID-19. The State submitted an initial plan to address issues and continues to work with the DOJ to make improvements. DHS will release the final version of the plan to the public.
* DHS has funding to allow 7 additional organizations to transform themselves into Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC). New clinics include Eyerly Ball, Hillcrest, Berryhill, Plains Area, Robert Young. Each clinic will receive $2M in funding for up to two years.
* DHS received funding from the DD Council to plan several trainings on the implementation of Person-Centered Plans and Positive Behavioral Supports. The program will build capacity to serve people with ID/DD for person centered planning and positive behavioral support. DHS contracted with Matt Enyart from the Beach Center on Disabilities to develop the curriculum and present the content. It will be a train-the-trainer effort, with approximately 20 trainers from settings such as managed care organizations, direct support staff, MHDS regions, and state resource centers.
* The Legislative session has been on hold since Mid-March but is scheduled to reconvene next week. Governor Reynolds previously proposed using some state money to replace county funding, with the goal of stabilizing funding for MHDS regions. She withdrew this proposal due to a shortfall in projected funding. The main focus of the session will likely be passing the appropriations bill to fund state government operations. It is unlikely that other legislation will be discussed in this session.

Discussion:

* Dawn asked if there may be an opportunity for services conducted via phone or telehealth to be reimbursed after COVID-19 is over. Connie explained that adaptations due to COVID-19 may lead to changes in reimbursement and suggested advocating at both the federal and state level, as IME may be able to apply for a waiver or make changes to the state plan.
* Dawn asked who the target population of the CCBHC program is. Connie explained that it is an attempt to add programs or services (e.g. substance use disorder) to Community Mental Health Centers or similar organizations to fill gaps, which allows them to serve a broader population, including individuals with co-occurring or multi-occurring conditions.
* Kay asked if there has been outreach to include family members as part of the PCPBS program. Connie explained that they have not reached out to family members as part of the train-the-trainer program, though some family members may be part of the previously mentioned professional groups. DHS felt it was too large of a time commitment for individuals who are unpaid. Families will be involved in the statewide effort.
* Mary Roberts requested information in writing regarding guidance to MCOs on supervision being a billable service for individuals over 18 regardless of where they live and those living in the family home who are not eligible for daily rate. It would be helpful to have a copy of this information to assist families in advocacy efforts. Connie will check with Brian Wines to determine if this can be made available by IME.

1. 11:00 **Discussion of COVID-19 Issues**

* Lack of testing of direct service professionals and and slow turnaround on testing is a concern. Lisa noted a disparity in staff paid at resource centers vs. those in the community, both in urban and rural areas.
* Paula motioned to start a COVID 19 subcommittee. Mary seconded. Lisa offered to merge letters submitted by Iowa Parents for People and IACP, then send it to the subcommittee to add additional information. Motion passed. No nays or abstentions. Motion carried. Subcommittee members include: Michael, Kay, Lisa, Paula, Daryn, Brittney Montross, and Kris.

1. 11:20 **Continued Discussion of Legislative Priorities**

* Kay asked if anyone has heard talks of budget cuts. Connie responded that they are moving forward with the assumption of level funding. There may be cuts, but Connie does not have information at this time.
* Paula suggested asking the Medicaid Committee to start drafting innovative work on waivers. Dawn noted that one item to look at is working with legislators to move toward universal waivers. Lisa Pakkebier noted that Marissa Eyanson mentioned that DHS is considering merging waivers.

1. 11:40  **Committee Reports**

* Olmstead Plan Committee – Kay Marcel
* Connie Fanselow provided information on efforts to develop RBSCL services for children with ID/DD, with the goal of increasing provider capacity. This is one step to address an identified need and hopefully will be used as a model for other populations.
* Discussed memo that went to MCOs regarding decreasing the number of hours approved for SCL services for ID and BI waivers. Brian Wines confirmed that individuals are eligible for up to 14 hours per day, though MCOs may have misinterpreted the rule and denied SCL services over 8 hours per day. Brian explained that DHS may eventually move to a prior authorization process for people needing 8+ hours of RBSCL services.
* Discussed efforts to reduce waiting lists for Home and Community Based Waivers and to confirm eligibility before being added to the list
* Discussed the restructuring of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee to change the numbers of voting members and oversight provided.
* Brian explained that supervision is a billable service for individuals over age 18, regardless of where the person lives. The approved amount is to be based on the assessed need and in the service plan.
* Discussed status of Money Follows the Person program. Funds are available through 2021, Iowa will use funds to transition 30 individuals in 2020. Funding after 2021 is uncertain.
* Medicaid Committee – no report
* Executive Committee – no report
* Community Access Committee – no report

1. **12:00 State Agency Reports**

* Iowa Department of Public Health
* IDPH has developed guidance for Covid-19 topics that may be of interest:

[Long Term Care and COVID-19](https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus/Long-Term-Care)

[COVID-19 Resources for Underserved Populations](https://idph.iowa.gov/Health-Equity/COVID-19-Resources-for-Underserved-Populations)

* The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa launched its annual needs assessment. Click [here to participate in the survey](https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5508430/4f1252318a5a).
* IDPH is participating in a national collaborative with the National Center on Advancing Person Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS). This includes individuals and family members with lived experience of brain injury, brain injury providers, and substance use providers. The collaborative will raise awareness among substance use providers of the co-occurring nature of brain injury and substance use disorders, provide tools to screen for brain injury, and materials to ensure treatment plans are person centered.
* The Office of Disability, Injury and Violence Prevention (DIVP) is being combined with the Office of Medical Cannabidiol to form the Bureau of Disability, Injury and Compassionate Therapeutics. The Bureau will be housed in the Division of Behavioral Health. Applications for the Bureau Chief position have been submitted and interviews will be conducted once COVID-19 restrictions allow.
* The DIVP received a 1-year mini-grant to host a Disability, Violence & Health Summit in summer 2020. The event had been planned for August 2020, though IDPH is currently seeking an extension on this date due to COVID-19 related restrictions and precautions. This 1-day summit will bring together people from disability services, violence prevention and response programs, health-care systems, and individual advocates, community members and other interested parties for collaborative conversations.
* Iowa was selected as the recipient of the 2020 State Technical Assistance Team (STAT) Visit from the Safe States Alliance. STAT is designed to assess and improve injury and violence prevention efforts within state health agencies, focusing on specific roles, relationships, and the performance of the designated injury and violence prevention (IVP) program. The program will help state injury and violence prevention programs (IVPPs) better understand and improve their organizational efforts across three core areas: infrastructure, data and surveillance, and policy and program strategies. Safe States Alliance has developed standards and indicators that describe the conditions that should exist within an ideal, comprehensive state health department IVPP. The STAT Program involves an on-site, point-in-time assessment of the IVP program, which results in recommendations for improvement and technical assistance for one year after the visit. Recommendations will be shared with OCTF when the process is complete.
* Iowa continues to use their TBI SPP programs to support screening with underserved populations (homeless, refugees, corrections, children’s behavioral health, & SUD).
* IDPH was planning to host a pre-conference workshop at the annual Governor’s Conference on Substance Use that will address the intersection of brain injury and Substance Use. It will be held virtually this summer. If you would like to participate, contact Jim Pender at 515-204-7978.
* IDPH staff are working with a task force of the Advisory Council on brain injuries to develop a screening tool for use with individuals age 5-21 to screen for a lifetime history of traumatic brain injury and other acquired brain injuries. Iowa’s current brain injury screening tool is for use in individuals age 13 and older.
* Iowa Department of the Blind (IDB)– Kim Barber
* The IDB Library is sending out books and providing services through mail, email, Braille Audio Reading Download and phone calls. To make a referral to Vocational Rehabilitation or Independent Living, anyone may call 800-362-2587 or complete our online referral form.
* The IDB Independent Living program received a $1,000 grant from the Iowa DD Council for a new project to help serve blind Iowans who also live with a developmental disability. They will engage clients by providing support and via a support group model, with support groups in Sioux City, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, and Marshalltown. We are facilitating these support groups through telecommunication or virtually. Goals are to isolation and fear, increase available information, provide referrals, offer guidance and counseling, and allow for disability skills training.
* IDB is launching several new cross-program initiatives to help youth gain independent living skills, develop self-efficacy, and be prepared for the world of work and adult life. We heard from parents about the need for additional support, resources, and training so that they can help children take on age appropriate responsibilities, keep up with their peers, and become well-adjusted adults. One initiative is the development of a parent advisory committee and a youth advisory committee to help guide our programs. We invite parents of blind and low vision youth to share their thoughts and needs at our virtual listening sessions on May 11th at 10:00 am and May 14th at 7:00 pm.

**12:30 Taskforce Member Reports**

* Mari noted concerns about the increases in the number of people either staying home or going to dayhab programs, due to limits in 14 C waivers.
* Kay asked what is happening to funding that is not billed for due to COVID-19. She will try to get more information on this.

**12:50 Public Comment**

* John McCalley with Amerigroup Iowa shared that there were three state waivers submitted to CMS requesting regulatory relief and funding. Mike Randol hosts a weekly teleconference meeting with stakeholders to discuss IME’s COVID-19 response. Approximately 4000 additional individuals qualified for Amerigroup’s Home Delivered Meals program. There is one reported death of a member within a waiver home.

**1:00 Adjournment**

Michael motioned to adjourn. Michael seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 pm.

**The next meeting is Friday, July 10, 2020.**