

**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**  
**July 10, 2015**  
**Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill**

**MINUTES**

Handouts

Minutes of Previous Meeting – May 8, 2015  
Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Executive Committee Minutes – June 4, 2015  
Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Comments to Council on Human Services – June 23, 2015  
Letter to Governor Branstad Regarding Integrated Employment – June 17, 2015  
Letter to Director Palmer Regarding Integrated Employment – June 17, 2015  
Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Comments on NEMT Waiver – May 18, 2015  
ADA Celebration Flyer  
Olmstead Plan One-Pager

**Taskforce Members Present:** Jackie Dieckmann; Dawn Francis; Ann Gallagher; Kris Graves; June Klein-Bacon; Tracy Keninger; Ashlea Lantz; Geoff Lauer (phone); Gary McDermott (phone); Michele Meadors; Kathleen O’Leary; Mary Roberts (phone); Len Sandler; Rosana Zamora

**Taskforce Members Absent:** Joan Bruhn; Roxanne Cogil; Tammy Nyden; Rick Samson; Bruce Teague; Ingrid Wensel;

**State Agency Representatives Present:** Katrina McKibbin (DOC); Terri Rosonke (IFA); Joel Wulf (IDA)

**Staff:** Bob Bacon; Caitlin Owens

**Guests:** Theresa Armstrong; Justin Coleman; Randy Davis; Connie Fanselow; Frank Greise; Jane Hudson; Joe Sample; Peter Schumacher (phone); Mary Troupe

**I. Welcome and Introductions – June Klein-Bacon**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am. A quorum was established.

**II. Review, Amendments and Approval of the Agenda – June Klein-Bacon**

June gave an overview of the agenda. Michele Meadors motioned to approve, and Len Sandler supported the motion. Motion carried.

**III. Review, Amendments and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – May 8, 2015**

June opened the floor for corrections or amendments to the March meeting minutes. Michele motioned to approve the minutes, Tracy Keninger supported the motion. Motion carried.

#### **IV. Executive Committee Report – June Klein-Bacon**

##### **A. Action Item: Review and endorse comments to Council on Human Services**

Comments were drafted and delivered by June to the Council on Human Services at their annual public hearing regarding DHS budget recommendations for the coming year. One ex-officio member of the Council asked June to provide more information on institutional bias and Iowa's disability population, and she followed up with information and resources via email after the meeting.

Len Sandler requested letters and other documents from the Taskforce be sent out to the whole group prior to submission to give all members the opportunity to weigh in.

##### **B. ADA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Several planned ADA celebrations are happening around the state later in July, including an event in Des Moines that June will be speaking at on behalf of the Taskforce. A handout with information on events in several parts of Iowa was passed around.

##### **C. Ray Gerke Award for Outstanding Systems Advocacy**

The Ray Gerke Award for Outstanding Systems Advocacy is presented annually by the Taskforce to a person and/or group who demonstrate outstanding system-level advocacy. The award was created to honor the late Ray Gerke who was a long-time Taskforce member and outstanding advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. Last year the award went to Cherie Clark, and for the first time the Taskforce added an Organizational Advocacy Award and presented it to Disability Rights Iowa.

Geoff Lauer proposed the Taskforce either add an award or amend the current award to recognize the passing of Terry Cunningham who was also a champion of Olmstead principles and the ADA. He said when the original award was conceived the group envisioned it would grow over time to possibly include categories for corporate entities and businesses, organizations, and possibly legislators, and naming the various award categories is a way to expand it.

Len supported the idea of adding a category for businesses, noting McDonalds in Cedar Rapids could be recognized for addressing accessibility concerns, which in turn caused other businesses to follow suit. Michele suggested two award categories, one to honor a group and one to honor an individual.

Geoff motioned to create an award named for Terry Cunningham to recognize organizations, businesses, or corporations that support community inclusion and the ADA. Gary McDermott seconded. Motion carried.

#### **V. Employment Committee Report – Ashlea Lantz**

##### **A. Action Item: Review and endorse letters to Governor Branstad and Director Palmer regarding integrated employment**

As a follow up to the employment discussion at the May meeting the two letters were sent regarding the need to notice the employment services redesign administrative rules in order for them to take effect prior to the start of managed care on January 1, 2016. The letter to the Governor also asked for the support of the \$750,000 appropriation in SF 505 to increase supported employment provider rates. She said the 10% increase is a step in

the right direction, but not enough on its own to rebalance the system. Tracy moved to endorse the letters, Michele seconded. Motion carried.

## **VI. Olmstead Plan Update- Connie Fanselow and Theresa Armstrong**

Connie Fanselow, the lead DHS staff member working on updating the Olmstead Plan, opened the discussion by saying she has been reflecting back on the history of Olmstead in Iowa, including her own involvement in many initiatives since 2000, and is happy to be part of the development of this most recent update. She said DHS has contracted with the Center for Disabilities and Development to assist with the update, and Bob Bacon, Rose Kim, and Caitlin Owens will be involved in the process.

Connie gave a brief overview of the development of the 2011-2015 Plan, noting how much has changed in Iowa since the Plan was drafted- MHDS redesign, regents becoming fully operational, the state taking over full payment of Medicaid, the cost of Medicaid services increasing for the state due to a reduced FMAP, and most recently managed care. When the plan was drafted five years ago those changes could not have been predicted, but there have also been many opportunities at the federal level like the establishment of the Administration on Community Living, increased DOJ enforcement of Olmstead around the country, HCBS rules about how and where services can be delivered, etc.

Despite all that has changed Connie thinks the original nine principles and vision of “a life in the community for everyone” outlined in the Plan are still relevant. Additionally, the MHDS outcomes and performance measures that were part of redesign and are now in Iowa Code were written based on the principles from the Olmstead Plan. A handout with the vision and the MHDS outcomes and performance measure domains was distributed. Connie said she envisions the next steps being drafting goals, outlining key activities to achieve them, and identifying ways to measure progress being made. She is hoping for input into all of those areas from the Taskforce and other stakeholders.

Len asked what the domains outlined on the handout correspond with, or are derived from. He said with all of the various DHS plans and data gathering initiatives it would be useful for the Olmstead Plan to match the discreet outcomes that everyone else is trying to achieve. Connie said work towards figuring out exactly what information will be collected under these domains is underway currently and the idea is to include those actual measures in the Plan. Theresa Armstrong added that there are many outcomes that may fall under each domain and Rose Kim has been hired specifically to look at these outcomes. Len asked whether these domains are inclusive of the other state agencies named in Executive Order 27, and noted it would be good to include them as early in the process as possible.

June said she hopes the Taskforce committee that is being formed will be working with DHS to build the goals and action steps part of the document. She said she would like to build a partnership and hopes the plan will address provider and community capacity and include steps that are reasonable and attainable, while being inclusive of all needed goals.

Jane Hudson said she knows everyone is making their best efforts, but would like to see an analysis of what was achieved in the old Plan and what still needs to be done. She said she is concerned about the top down approach as there are many individuals and groups who have valuable input and should be part of the process. Theresa said it may seem top down at this point, but it will not be. She said they wanted a framework to provide structure and something for people to react to, and Connie is ready to have some strong conversations with members of the Taskforce’s Olmstead Plan Committee and others. Connie added that they will be planning some public meetings, and all ideas and suggestions are welcome in whatever form people want to offer them,

and the hope is to have a plan by January that is flexible enough to add new initiatives or adjust existing ones when the need to do so comes up or a new goal is identified.

Tracy asked what the plan is for accountability of oversight and implementation, and who specifically is charged with the oversight. Theresa said some of the accountability will be identified as the measurements and outcomes are finalized and tied to the plan. Regarding oversight, she said there is not technically any formally driven oversight at this point, but DHS and other departments will have oversight of the tasks that fall within their scope of work, and she envisions ongoing stakeholder input and involvement as well.

Ashlea pointed out that on the handout integrated settings are referred to twice in reference to housing under the “life in the community” domain but not in the description of employment. Len suggested the “quality of life and safety” domain include language about preventing neglect.

Dawn Francis, chair of the Olmstead Plan Committee, said she would like to set up a time to meet to go over the Plan and actively contribute to the drafting process. She said there should be input from many different sources but that the Taskforce is a really important partner.

Jackie Dieckmann asked how word will get out effectively so people who may not have access to a computer, or haven’t been involved in the past will have an opportunity to participate. She said a lot of voices get missed because people do not know about initiatives or opportunities for participation. Connie said that would be a good topic for the committee to discuss.

## **VII. IME Update- Deb Johnson**

### **A. Managed Care**

Deb Johnson opened with an update on the status of the waivers that will be submitted to CMS to authorize Medicaid managed care. The 1915(b) will give authority for managed care, while the existing 1915(c) HCBS waivers and the 1115 Iowa Health and Wellness waiver must be amended and coordinated under the 1915(b) waiver. IME has been working with CMS on a regular basis to get the waivers submitted as soon as possible. There will be a series of public meetings the first week of August.

Deb asked if the Taskforce had any input on how to best reach a wide audience when outreach about managed care begins. She said mailings are cost prohibitive, and outreach efforts have not yet started, but it is important to spread this information. She said IME is in the process of putting together a toolkit for stakeholders to help accurately and effectively share information.

Geoff asked what the budget for awareness and outreach is. Deb said she is not sure of the answer but if there was a suggestion for something that could effectively reach a lot of people it could be proposed to administration. June added that it would be beneficial to have a toolkit of some sort to help advocates and others accurately answer questions and provide information about managed care. Geoff said this is a topic the Medicaid Committee could take on and brainstorm ideas for effective outreach. He suggested targeting information to places where people are likely to go, like barber shops and hair salons, and also through the mailings and publications of various licensing boards around the state as part of their regular communications to their professional body.

Len said all of the information put out is overwhelming, including for advocates who are receiving calls with questions about managed care. He said time needs to be taken to really figure out what people want to know,

and the branding of the initiative should be simple and clear. People do not know what Medicaid Modernization is, they just want insurance. He suggested a very simple one-pager that is truly understandable to a wide audience. Michele agreed and stressed the need for information to be very simple, and suggested television and radio as a better venue for sharing information than cost prohibitive mailings. Several Taskforce members agreed, and Dawn said partnering with the stations to intensively air short public service announcements would be a good way to get the information out to people quickly and efficiently. Jackie said to keep in mind that people on the eastern and western sides of the state often get their newscasts from bordering states, so it would be important to reach out to those as well.

Other suggestions for places to disseminate information were: local DHS and social security offices, healthcare provider offices, public housing, homeless shelters, community homes in Southern Iowa, meal sites and meals on wheels, YMCA's, churches, public transportation, regional radio stations and newspapers, and community corrections.

Dawn asked whether DHS has a toll free number consumers can call for help. Deb said DHS currently has a member services hotline and they are gearing up to expand the call center so there will be specialized people to help. She said she assumes the winning bidders will set up call lines to discuss their own services when selected as well.

Deb thanked everyone for their valuable feedback and said she will share it with the professional who is developing the toolkit, and once it is available she will make sure it is shared with the Taskforce. Dawn added if the materials are available electronically many people around the table could distribute through their extensive email lists.

#### B. Waiver Waitlists

Geoff asked whether the number projected to come off the waiver waitlists actually did. Deb said there are still pending applications of people organizing their services, but she does not think they are going to meet the target that they initially predicted. Geoff asked by how much they expect to not meet the target. Deb said she does not have that information currently, but they gave out double the slots because they expect 50% of people on the waitlist will not end up taking a slot, for reasons like moving out of state or not qualifying. She said at this point she expects that they will be below the 50% projected "uptake" but will not know for sure until all pending applications are finalized. Geoff asked if Deb could plan to report on this with more specifics at the September meeting.

June said she has been finding that when people who are not currently receiving Medicaid notify DHS about an address change they cannot process it because they are not technically in the system, so if their name comes up on the waitlist they are unlikely to be notified if they have moved because it isn't possible for them to update it. She asked if Deb could look into that because there are many people who may not have Medicaid but need to be in the system while they are on the waitlist.

#### **VIII. Legislative Update—June Klein-Bacon**

June gave an overview of the Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, which was signed by the governor on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. More information can be found in [InfoNet's July 8, 2015 issue](#).

## **IX. Medicaid Committee Report—Geoff Lauer**

Geoff shared the Medicaid Committee discussed reaching out to the selected managed care companies to educate them about *Olmstead* in Iowa and the work of the Taskforce. He also said many people who attended the Consumer Advisory Group on Medicaid Managed Care were frustrated with the meeting, and many invited to participate were not even aware of the transition to managed care, which is concerning. He cautioned that the Taskforce and other stakeholders can be of value in passing on information to others, but should be careful not to take on too much of the responsibility as it really is up to DHS.

Dawn briefly discussed the Iowa Disability and Aging Advocacy Network (IDAAN), explaining that it is a network that supports *Olmstead*, and promotes services and resources for everyone in the community. She said while the reality may be that managed care cannot be stopped or slowed down, consumers still need a voice. She said IDAAN has proposed doing an action alert when DHS submits the waivers to CMS and makes them available for public comment, and again when CMS takes public comment. Getting information to a wide range of people on how to comment and encouraging them to do so individually online will ensure power in numbers.

## **X. Transportation Committee Report – Gary McDermott and June Klein-Bacon**

### **A. Refueling Assistance Bill**

Gary gave an update on the refueling assistance legislation, which would require any newly constructed, replaced, or renovated fuel pumps to include an accessibility device compliant with ADA standards to assist drivers with disabilities. While the bill gained momentum this year, passing the Senate in early June, it was not taken up by the House before the close of the session. Gary said Senator Hart said she was going to work with someone to try to champion it through the House next year, and he anticipates the need for advocates to get involved in order to convey the importance of this bill to representatives around the state.

### **B. Non-Emergency Medical Transportation**

June reported the Taskforce was contacted by a team from the Government Accountability Office to discuss Iowa's waiver of NEMT services for Iowa Health and Wellness Plan members, as they are doing a study because more information on the issue was requested by members of Congress. A call is scheduled to discuss the matter further.

Rosana Zamora shared there are shuttles available for veterans to get to non-emergency medical appointments, but people must get to the pickup locations which can be a challenge. She said there is also a need for assistance for families to get appointments. Dawn asked if she knew anything about the Department of Transportation grant for veterans that was going to eventually expand services beyond that population. Joel Wulf shared that the grant, One Call One Click, has had its funding extended for one year, with most of it allocated to the ADRC's Life Long Links. He said the system needs to be created, and the plan is to help ADRC's buy the hard equipment to get the phone systems in place. The grant will also pay for data migration. Michele said while the call center is good, the problem is not actually having vehicles. She suggested requesting more information on this from Kristin Haar at a future Taskforce meeting.

June brought up another issue regarding a recent announcement that the brain injury and intellectual disability waiver can no longer reimburse SCL workers for providing transportation to medical appointments, and should instead direct clients to NEMT. She said she knows IACP is working on putting together information for

providers, and she got clarification from Deb that providers can still provide support during the medical appointment, but they do need to use NEMT. Dawn said she has heard from consumers and providers that this can be challenging because when NEMT arrives they will transport the client, but not the support worker. June said TMS will provide bus passes for support workers, and she also learned recently that providers can be NEMT providers but there are several associated complications with that process. She said she knows this information is of concern to many, but hopefully more information from IACP will clarify things.

## **XI. Discussion of Taskforce Committees**

June opened the discussion by addressing the purpose of committees to move the work of the Taskforce forward between meetings by designating a few groups to focus on certain topics. She said the goal of all committees and the Taskforce should be to promote *Olmstead* compliance. Transportation, Housing, Employment, MHDS Redesign, Medicaid, and Olmstead Plan are technically ad hoc workgroups, so should be periodically reassessed to ensure the need still exists. Nominations and Executive are designated standing committees in the bylaws, thus their purpose remains fairly constant over time.

June proposed merging the Transportation, Housing, and Employment Committees into a newly formed “Community Access” Committee. She said she envisions this committee would address the issues of transportation, housing, and employment, but also widen the scope to make sure all aspects of community inclusion are being covered. She also proposed expanding the focus of the Nominations Committee to include outreach and marketing.

Dawn supported the idea of expanding the work of the Nominations Committee. Len supported the idea of decreasing the number of committees, as currently there are too many for the number of people on the Taskforce. Geoff said he thinks the Taskforce will be able to focus on the necessary issues given the flexibility of the chair to establish ad hoc workgroups based on need, and the areas of expertise of those around the table.

June asked if anyone would be interested in chairing the Community Access or Nominations Committees. Dawn asked if committees could have co-chairs. June said that is fine, and pointed to the Medicaid Committee which is currently co-chaired by Roxanne and Geoff. Michele asked if June could put together a description of what each committee does, and June said a document has been drafted and will be sent soon. Len suggested including recent work/successes of each committee, and a sample of information on topics discussed so people can make an informed decision about whether or not to participate.

June said it would be ideal for committees to meet at least once between whole Taskforce meetings, or more often if working on a particular project.

## **XII. State Agency Reports**

### **A. Iowa Department on Aging**

Joel Wulf introduced himself, and said he has taken over Joe Sample’s role at the Department on Aging. He said he planned to discuss three topics: the ADRC’s, the Office of Substitute Decision Making, and Governor’s Conference on Aging and Disability.

#### **a. *ADRC’s and Life Long Links***

Joel shared that IDA hit a snafu with software for Life Long Links (LLL) that they did not anticipate, but the issues are being addressed and he truly wants to make progress and move forward. He shared that ads are now posted for LLL, on television, radio, and newspapers across the state to try to guide people towards LLL as a resource. IDA's contract with DHS through the Balancing Incentives Program (BIP) ends on September 30, and all indications suggest that's what will occur, though it isn't entirely clear what that will mean. IDA has met the contract deliverables with the exception of the software.

Sustainability continues to be an issue for the ADRC's. A contractor has been hired through an Administration on Community Living grant to help look at how to sustain the ADRC network across the state. He shared that there is no state general fund appropriation for the ADRC's, or any specific federal appropriation. Guidance from the federal government has consistently suggested finding existing resources, but that has been an ongoing challenge.

*b. Office of Substitute Decision Maker*

Joel moved on to discuss the Office of Substitute Decision Maker, which is known in many states as the Office of Public Guardianship. He said conversations have been had about changing the name here in Iowa because people don't immediately know what the Office of Substitute Decision Maker means. He said the Office has a very broad scope in Iowa, covering guardianship, conservatorship, and power of attorney. He said it is an office of last resort.

Joel shared that the Office was up and running between 2007-2009 but was defunded by the General Assembly due to budget constraints in 2009. It took five years to get it back up and running, and it became operational again in 2014. During this past legislative session the Governor's budget recommended a \$325,000 appropriation, which would be for statewide operations. The House zeroed it out in their budget, but it was added back at \$288,000 in Conference Committee. Currently are working with consultant on a cost analysis regarding what the actual cost to run this program statewide would be, which is based on the recommendations of a 2012 legislative taskforce. He said he does not have the numbers yet, but hopes with a carefully executed cost analysis the recommendations made to the Governor and the General Assembly will be well formed and accurate.

*c. The Governor's Conference on Aging and Disability*

Joel said at one point this was known as the Governor's Conference on Aging, but hasn't been held since 2009. He said the intention is to broaden the scope to include disability, and they have partnered with the DD Council. The Conference is scheduled for May 23-26 2016 at the Iowa Events Center in downtown Des Moines. The National Association of States United on Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) is powering the conference, and they are hoping to attract excellent speakers and between 800-1,200 attendees. He shared there will be two exhibition halls, with one specifically focusing on technology and assistive technology.

*d. Discussion*

June asked for clarification on the contract with DHS ending on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and whether they expect to get another contract. Joel said they do not expect another contract, and the end of this contract means other funding will need to be secured for other services like options counseling, level 1 assessments, and administration of the ADRC's. He said guidance from the federal government has always been to use existing resources differently, and at this time he does not have all of the answers on how this will unfold, or how it will



be funded in the future. Geoff asked if it is possible that the ADRC's will close this fall. Joel said no, IDA will figure out a way to keep them running, and the AAA's do put dollars towards it.

Dawn said she is glad to hear the Governor's Conference on Aging is being expanded, and IDAAN has been working to include the aging community and bolster that important advocacy partnership. She said it is good that they are partnering with the DD Council, but feels strongly that the disability piece should be cross-disability, and suggested partnering with other organizations to make sure multiple disability groups are represented. Joel said he agrees, which is part of the reason they hope to bring people like Bob Bacon on to lend expertise.

Dawn asked for clarification on Life Long Links. She said she is confused by how all of the different information and referral systems will be involved. She asked how it was decided to consolidate all of them into one. Joel said that consolidation was a mandate from the federal government that states should move towards a single "No Wrong Door" system. Dawn said she would like more information on how IDA is working with these other systems, as it seems like there has not been a lot of collaboration which has been concerning to many people. Joel said he does not have answers to all of those concerns, but they are trying to make some heartfelt outreach efforts to the disability community on a limited budget and will continue to do so. He said they are open to recommendations.

Len asked what is going to happen with Iowa COMPASS under the funding. Joel said he cannot answer that, but currently they do not fund Iowa COMPASS, that is through DHS. Len said he would like information in the future about what IDA is doing towards the goals of *Olmstead* besides trying to get LLL out. He said two years ago he spoke with Director Harvey about housing, and two weeks ago she reported nothing has been done towards that. He said it is also concerning that the Office of Substitute Decision Maker only has two staff, and questions have been asked about when IDA will set up a list of volunteers who would serve as guardians. Joel said state code does not allow IDA to use volunteers, though they do provide training and education to potential volunteers. He said in addition to their now active caseload, which is limited to 10 in administrative rule, they are also charged with providing information to the bar, courts, and general public on a limited budget.

Mary Troupe asked if COMPASS closes down who will take on the assistive technology work they do. She said she thinks assistive technology is huge for keeping people in the community, and it seems as if COMPASS is an integral part of that in Iowa. Bob Bacon said he could address this in his report.

B. Center for Disabilities and Development

a. *Iowa COMPASS*

Bob shared that COMPASS is not dead, but not thriving either. He shared that DHS extended the contract by six months through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, with the possibility of a second six month extension. He said as a result of the recent uncertainty in funding they have lost a few staff members, but have been able to hire replacements and believe they are currently viable, but not in the long-term. He said recently it became clear that it was not possible for them to expect funding through IDA, or through a piece of BIP. He said at this point it is essential for IDA to publicly say that the only way the No Wrong Door can go forward successfully is by publicly calling for collaboration in funding. As an example, COMPASS approached David Mitchell at Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services regarding the assistive technology piece the database when it became clear that COMPASS was in trouble. COMPASS asked David if he could fund that piece of the database, knowing how important it is to people with disabilities, and he said he would consider it but cannot fund something that someone else is going

to pay for; thus requesting this public announcement would signal that it is ok for other agencies to contribute funding.

Bob said the Iowa Program on Assistive Technology (IPAT), which has been in operation since about 1989, has always by law included an information and referral component that contributes approximately \$70,000- \$80,000 to COMPASS. He said that funding will remain, but it is not enough to fund the entire system. He said he is unsure of when the consultants hired by IDA will produce their sustainability plan, but stressed that it cannot happen soon enough. He said in addition to the assistive technology component, COMPASS is currently the only information and referral system in the state for children's resources. He said even though they are not mandated to serve children, regions are reporting getting calls from parents and caregivers who are concerned about their children, and COMPASS is a big resource for connecting those people to valuable resources.

*b. Money Follows the Person*

Moving forward to other updates, Bob shared that as of last June Money Follows the Person had transitioned 449 people to the community. He said CMS recently approved MFP's sustainability plan which means it will be extended through 2019, with the last person being transitioned in 2018 in order to provide 365 days of support before the end of the program. He said they will be working with the funded MCO's, as CDD is the state designee named in the RFP for MFP.

*c. MHDS Redesign Domains*

Bob shared more information on the background of the domains on the one-pager Connie passed during the Olmstead Plan discussion. He said he was co-chair of the Outcomes and Performance Measures Workgroup, and part of what they did was look at the system level outcomes, individual level outcomes, and the family level outcomes that had been identified by various Redesign workgroups. He said the Workgroup had been cautioned by stakeholders to carefully consider which outcomes to include, rather than collecting measures that are not necessary. He said the six domains were meant to focus the effort, and are strongly rooted in principles from the original Olmstead Plan.

B. Department of Corrections

Katrina McKibbin shared that DOC and DHS began working together last year on how to better serve individuals leaving prison by piloting a project in three facilities to help people apply for Medicaid 30 days before their parole date. She said DHS has been a good partner, and as of May this year 1,483 individuals had left prison with healthcare coverage, 240 of whom met medically exempt criteria. She said for individuals with a solid parole plan, family support, and no mental or physical health issues the first three months after leaving prison are extremely high risk, so when even one of those pieces are not there the risk is even higher.

She also shared that the Office of Drug Enforcement Policy and DOC were awarded a three-year statewide recidivism grant. She said a component of this project is a training for DOC staff and community providers to gain a better understanding of the roles both sides play in supporting re-entry. The training is being coordinated by the Center for Disabilities and Development, though a contract with DHS.

Len said he works with a lot of clients who are older and coming out of jails or institutes, but have difficulty finding places to live. He asked if there are any models they are looking at to address this, or if they are working with Life Long Links. Katrina said the only ones she knows of are already in existence, like transitional housing. She said an RFI was put out with DHS last year to see if anyone would be willing to discuss housing for people

with sex or arson offenses, but there were no replies. Bob noted that the grant has a need for a resource database, so there could be a possibility of DOC funding for COMPASS.

C. Iowa Finance Authority

Terri Rosonke shared that IFA recently had the 2016 Qualified Allocation Plan draft approved, and public comment will be accepted through August 25<sup>th</sup>. She said she discussed the main changes from an Olmstead perspective in more detail last month, which included realigning the scoring criteria to make Mental Health First Aid a threshold requirement for all applicants, and reducing the points available for multi-bedroom accessible units based on low demand.

Terri gave an update that the appropriation for the HCBS rent subsidy program remained the same at \$658,000. She said there is still not a waitlist to speak of, and IFA has started having conversations with DHS and others to decide how to proceed. She said they would like to change administrative rule to open to habilitation users, and DHS and IME were receptive. Unfortunately, the appropriation is very specific and limits participation to those who meet the nursing home level of care and those eligible for MFP. She said the nursing home level of care language presents a challenge, and instead of simply changing administrative rule the appropriations language will need to be changed during the next session. She said it would also be good to have the program specifically referenced in IFA's section of Iowa Code, making this a longer term process than they had hoped for. She welcomes any thoughts or comments the Taskforce may have in coming months. In response to a question from a Taskforce member Terri clarified that the program is a "bridge subsidy," meaning everyone in the program is also on a waitlist for a longer term rent subsidy program like Section 8.

**XIII. Taskforce Member Reports**

Dawn encouraged everyone to attend an ADA Celebration in their area, and said the Des Moines event will include a march, celebration, and awards ceremony.

Michele shared that the Miss Wheelchair America 2016 competition will be held July 27<sup>th</sup>- August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Des Moines.

**IX. Public Comment**

Mary Troupe shared that she has worked for years with Senator Grassley on a bill that would help older Americans stay in their homes for care as they age. She said recently bipartisan federal legislation was introduced that would make it possible for individuals who do not meet income criteria for Medicaid to receive individualized supports in their home without needing to first go into a nursing home and "spend down" in order to qualify for Medicaid.

**X. Adjournment**

Dawn motioned to adjourn, Michele seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.