**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**September 11, 2020**

**This meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID-19.**

1. 10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Derek Laney, Dawn Francis, Mari Reynolds, Mary Roberts, Gary McDermott, Joel Vander Molen, Lisa Pakkebier, Jenna Batten, Brittney Montross, Daryn Richardson, Paula Connolly, Tracy Keninger, June Klein Bacon, Jessica Johanns, Kris Graves, Michael Martin, Kim Brown

Others present: John McCalley, Brooke Lovelace, Connie Fanselow, Todd Lange, Terri Rosonke, Emily Berry, Ljerka Vasiljevic, Pam Heagle, Kim Barber, Fred Wilcox, Julie Bergeson, Patti Bahr

Staff support: Anne Crotty

1. 10:10         **Review, Additional Items, and Approval of the Agenda**

Dawn Francis suggested adding a discussion of IDB state appropriation request to agenda. June motioned to accept the agenda, Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

1. 10:15       **Review, Corrections and Approval of the July minutes**

Lisa Pakkebier requested changing REM Developmental Services to REM Iowa. Jessica motioned to approve minutes. Derek seconded. Motion passed. No nays or abstentions.

1. 10:30 **Discussion of Iowa Department of the Blind State Appropriation Request**

IDB requests to add another independent living teacher and fund a youth transition program. Gary motioned to approve the taskforce writing a letter of support. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

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

The Iowa Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program is a CARES Act program that provides rental and mortgage assistance for income qualitied Iowans who have lost income due to COVID 19. It continues to take applications and will run through December 31, 2020. IFA is also working to recover long-term housing Linn County and other areas impacted by the derecho. The HCBS rent subsidy program has 70 applicants on the wait list. The section 8 public housing authority has not opened their applications due to COVID-19, so the HCBS waitlist has grown. Anne will send a Corporation for Supportive Housing report that estimates a need for thousands of units of supportive housing in Iowa. Top populations in need of supportive housing are older individuals, people exiting prisons, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Anne will send the report to the taskforce.

Discussion: Dawn asked for information on the moratorium on evictions. Terri explained that the CDC issued an order that requires tenants to qualify under the order and sign a self-declaration letter to the landlord. The Legal Innovation and Tech Lab’s has a CDC Eviction Moratorium Assistant that allows tenants anywhere in the country to find out if they qualify for the moratorium and produces a customized letter that tenants can download and print or email directly to their landlords. Tenants who qualify and send this letter can halt their evictions until December 31, 2020. Link: <https://massaccess.suffolklitlab.org/housing/#CDC>.

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

* The Children’s Board designated $19 million in CARES Act funding to support technology needs in schools for distance learning. DHS continues support telehealth and the benefits have shown increased access to services. The expanded use of telehealth is expected to continue through at least January. DHS has provided support to foster parents on deciding whether to do remote learning.
* The MHDS regions and AEAs have been working on coordinating resources available to children in schools and outside of school, for the purpose of filling gaps and collaborating on issues of mutual interest.
* One model for telehealth in schools is called a Classroom Clinic. This would provide clinical services such as psychiatric evaluation, medication management, crisis intervention, and collaboration with person-centered planning. It would provide support to educators and provide child-specific strategies. Schools would provide a secure location and identify the funding process to serve children.
* The Children’s Board has discussed metrics and outcomes to track, including how to determine the best support system and assure children can access behavioral health screenings, existing data sources. Future meetings will address issues with law enforcement and children, child welfare, funding, workforce issues, and would like information from families on their experiences with these issues.
* Information on derecho recovery is available on the DHS website. There is additional funding to help individuals receiving food assistance to replace food that was lost. There is an individual disaster assistance grant program available. Eligible recipients can get a grant of up to $5000 for costs such as home repair or temporary housing. There is disaster case management, which would provide a single point of contact to receive assistance in developing a recovery plan. Providers are discussing how to improve disaster planning and integrate plans with COVID-19 planning.
* COVID Recovery Iowa - Iowa received a statewide Presidential Disaster Declaration for individual assistance through FEMA, which is limited to crisis counseling programs and individual assistance. Services include: Supportive crisis counseling, psychoeducation, assistance in developing coping skills, linkages to appropriate resources, assessment and referral to more intensive treatment. The project also includes funding to hire counselors to conduct outreach to people with developmental disabilities and other special populations.
* The $50 million in CARES Act funding will be reinvested in the Iowa mental health system. This includes $30 million for home and community-based waiver services, $10 million to non-hospital based mental health care providers, and $10 million to substance abuse providers. These costs will cover costs associated with the pandemic that are not covered through other sources. There is also an additional $30 million to be directed to MHDS regions to address social isolation and other issues with the pandemic, with the intention of each region getting $9.50 per capita. Regions are using the funding to support projects such as providing additional support to school staff, de-escalation training for law enforcement, transitional housing programs, telehealth services, and community outreach.

Discussion: Dawn asked if telehealth utilization will occur via Medicaid or also allow other services. Dawn hopes that they will allow the continued use of Zoom to remove the cost of transportation. Connie explained that the use of telehealth will be allowed through at least January 2021. Several members shared benefits of allowing continued use of telehealth services and one mentioned a possible concern of members not having sufficient internet service or technology to access telehealth services. There is a need to make sure that people with disabilities and employees of disability service providers can access funding to be able to buy devices or increase internet speed. A subcommittee of the Community Access Committee will explore writing a letter to support the extended use of telehealth.

* It has allowed people who have COVID-19 to continue treatment with service providers throughout the course of the illness
* It has allowed people to stay in their own apartment rather than going to a higher level of care.
* Allows people with severe conditions who may have difficulty leaving the house or who lack transportation to access treatment.
* Provides a more holistic view of the person

1. 11:30 **Recognition of members terming off**

Anne will send certificates to members terming off via mail.

1. 11:40 **OCTF Subcommittee Membership**

A telehealth subcommittee will be formed within the Community Access Committee. Mary Roberts will co-chair subcommittee; Michael, Kris, and Joel will also join.

1. 11:50 **10 Minute Break**
2. 12:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**
   1. Executive Committee Report – no report
   2. Nominations Committee Report
   3. Mary provided an overview of the suggested new members to the taskforce. Proposed new members: Marc Hines, Harriet Gulbranson, Stacie Lane, Becky Coffin, Melinda Haley, Jen Simmering. Paula moved to accept nominations; Michael seconded. Mari Reynolds and Lisa Pakkebier abstained. Motion passed.
   4. Olmstead Plan Committee Report
   5. Community Access Committee Report
   6. Medicaid Committee Report
   7. COVID-19 Committee Report

1. 12:30                **State Agency Reports**

**Iowa Department for the Blind (IDB) – Kim Barber**

* + - IDB provided an update on their state appropriation request. They are seeking a SFY22 state appropriation of $2,776,222 and an allowance of 89 FTEs. This includes: adding one teacher to the Independent Living Team, providing the 21.3% state match to fund our Young Adult Transition Program, providing state match sufficient to cover contract mandated cost of living increases, rising Department of Administrative Services and Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) charges. IDB also requests an additional $139,000 for building repairs
    - Kim also described the impact of decreasing federal support for Independent Living services for older individuals losing vision, as federal support has decreased or remained the same every year since 2017.
    - Kim described how the cluster model and putting an additional teacher in the field, increased the ability to more efficient and better quality services.
    - Kim explained that the Independent Living Services for Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program provides training and accessible technology (e.g. screen readers, smart phones, etc.) for individuals fifty-five years or older who are blind, to increase their ability to live independently. Current funding is inadequate to meet the needs of everyone who qualifies. There is a resolution to increase funding for this program.
    - Four + programs are designed for students who have completed the academic requirements to graduate from high school, but still have Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals to achieve. IDB previously met with the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired to discuss the possibility of IDB creating a 4+ program in Des Moines similar to the program hosted on the Iowa School for the Deaf campus in Council Bluffs. IDB’s 4+ program was not included in the budget passed during the COVID crisis. IDB received a one-time grant of third party match funds from the Iowa Commission for the Blind’s Gifts & Bequests Fund and are currently serving four students.

**Iowa Department of Public Health – Jim Pender**

* + Interim Iowa Department of Public Health Director Kelly Garcia has shared the need DHS and IDPH services to determine opportunities for better alignment, for the purpose of improving coordination and effectiveness. A consultant group will begin a review process within both agencies.
  + The Office of Disability, Injury and Violence Prevention was to be combined with the Office of Medical Cannabidiol (OMC) to form the Bureau of Disability, Injury and Compassionate Therapeutics. This plan was reevaluated and it was determined to keep these offices separate and move forward with developing a Bureau of Medical Cannabidiol.
  + IDPH is participating in a national brain injury learning collaborative with the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS).
  + IDPH and Iowa Department of Education have partnered to bring the Get Schooled on Concussions’ Teacher’s Acute Concussion Tool (TACT) to Iowa through a statewide subscription. This just in time education and resources for concussion management in the classroom is available at no cost to educators working in public or private schools. Contact [brain.injury@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:brain.injury@idph.iowa.gov) for more information.

Discussion: Mary commented that PTSD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Intellectual Disability with self-injury were added as qualifying conditions. Many health care providers don’t know that they must prescribe a dosage of THC, so it is suggested to use a dosage of 25 mg. There is a new member of the Board of Medicine who is trying to get refractory two added to most qualifying conditions, which would require people to try and fail at using many other medications first that may be more dangerous. The Iowa Cannabidiol board filed an exemption to eliminate the conflict between the federal and state rules, which would open the Iowa program to more people.

**Iowa Department of Public Safety – Ljerka Vasiljevic**

* + As of October, Iowa Dept of Public Safety will implement fair housing rules.

1. 12:45       **Taskforce Member Reports**
   * + Mari mentioned that ASK Resource Center is hearing of concerns about Return to Learn plans. They held two webinars with Barb Guy and legal staff on this topic.
     + Joel mentioned that his parents are considering retiring, but that will change social security and may have to switch to a Managed Care Organization. Dawn suggested contacting Disability Rights Iowa and connecting with Paula Connolly to write a letter to Sen. Grassley to suggest changes to Social Security law.
2. 1:00       **Public Comment**

John McCalley with Amerigroup Iowa

* + - * John shared an update on their COVID response, derecho recovery and collaborative work with state resource centers. The Medicaid program was expanded to expand access to services such as home delivered meals, chore services, and supported community living. The CARES Act provided some funding relief to service providers. There is also an enhanced rate administered through CARES Act for nursing facilities. The CARES Act and the State of Iowa did not include ICFs in eligibility for the enhanced rate. He also provided an update on collaborative work between IME, DHS, subcontractors, and other stakeholders to identify residents at state resource centers who would like to transition to community living. He noted that IME allowed Amerigroup to do face-to-face case management at members’ request due to the derecho. Amerigroup Iowa sent 50,000 lbs of shelf-stable food to impacted counties within one week. They continue to assist impacted members on short and long-term housing concerns.

1. 1:30     **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

***Next Meeting: Friday, November 13, 2020***