**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**November 13, 2020**

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

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Kris Graves, Dawn Francis, Lisa Pakkebier, Jessica Johanns, Melinda Haley, Stacie Lane, Jen Simmering, Harriet Gulbranson, Joel Vander Molen, Mary Roberts, , Mari Reynolds, Kim Brown, Marc Hines, Paula Connolly, Becky Coffin, Brittany Montross, Michael Martin

Others present: Greg Fier, Connie Fanselow, Caitlin Owens, Pam Rupprecht, June Klein Bacon, John McCalley, Fred Wilcox

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

Michael motioned to accept the agenda. Kris seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

10:15        **Review, Corrections and Approval of the September minutes**

Jessica motioned to approve the minutes. Lisa seconded. Motion passed. No nays or abstentions.

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

* $50 million in federal 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 use treatment providers. These funds will cover costs associated with the pandemic that are not covered through other sources, for things like increased costs, hazard pay, and lost revenue. There is also an additional $30 million that was directed to MHDS regions to address social isolation and other issues associated with the pandemic, with each region receiving $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, technology to provide telehealth services, mobile crisis expansion, and community outreach.
* Iowa Medicaid Enterprise will analyze the HCBS waivers in place and determine which modifications that have been allowed during the COVID-19 pandemic should continue for a longer term. IME will also assess staffing to assure they have appropriate policy expertise to support their work with MCOs.
* The COVID Recovery Iowa program has made over 250,000 contacts though groups, the warmline, materials distributed, phone calls, texts, and emails. Some of the activities include wellness, interest groups, virtual events, and a pen-pal program for older adults. The program will provide additional resources for individuals who are struggling with social isolation during the holiday season.
* The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic program involves adding services to existing community health centers to provide a comprehensive array of mental health and substance use services at one organization, so they can meet the multi-occurring needs of consumers. The following organizations are participating: Abbe Center, Seasons Center, Eyerly Ball, Hillcrest, Plains area Mental Health, Robert Young, Elevate Housing Foundation.
* The State Resource Centers are working on the Community Integration Plan, identifying people who want to live in the community, and engaging individuals and guardians in transition planning. They are developing individual transition assessments to allow community providers to offer placement in the community. COVID-19 has made it challenging for some community providers to retain staff and to be able to accept new clients. The State Resource centers are also redefining their admission criteria and are not currently admitting new residents to control COVID spread. They are developing individual transition assessments to allow community providers to offer placement in the community.
* Resources are still available to assist Iowans in recovering after the August 19 derecho. Resources include food assistance replacement, Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance grant program, disaster case management, behavioral health resources, YourLifeIowa, and a warmline.
* The Children’s Behavioral Health System Board met on November 10 and the minutes will be available on their website. The Board has meetings scheduled for Nov. 24 and Dec. 18.
* DHS and Iowa Department of Public Health are reviewing strategies to better coordinate mental health and disability services at DHS with behavioral health services at IDPH. It is an opportunity to review the current system, how providers can be better integrated, how to serve individuals who have co-occurring conditions and need integrated treatment. This effort will focus on factors such as how they work collaborative, collecting and thoughtfully using meaningful data, and explore advantages and potential challenges of submitting a combined block grant application.
* A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released for a vendor to conduct an independent review of DHS and IDPH and provide a report with recommendations on how to better coordinate work, redesign the service delivery system, and improve outcomes. The selected vendor will be expected to reach out to stakeholders, identify strategies to expand existing funding sources, engage all levels of staff to ensure voices are heard, and recommend the creation of an improved organizational structure. It is hoped that the improved structure will optimize service delivery, ease work, and integrate overlapping services. Bids are due December 7 and work is expected to begin in February. The OCTF will have an opportunity to provide feedback throughout this process.

Discussion:

* Marc Hines asked if Connie knows the current census count for state resource centers.
* Mari asked if there is an update on opportunities for families to offer feedback on the Children’s Mental Health System. Connie will send information to Anne to send to the taskforce when the Children’s Mental Health Board is asking for feedback from families.
* Dawn asked if there have discussions about continuing to pay for telehealth after COVID ends. These discussions are ongoing within DHS Connie will see if there is an update or if someone from DHS is able to attend the next meeting.
* Dawn asked if there are any updates to the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). John McCalley shared that it EVV is a federal law and that Iowa’s MCOs and IME are using the same vendor, CareBridge. The website has trainings on how to use EVV. There are four codes that indicate which services apply for attendant services, though Iowa will most likely add more codes in the future. It may be helpful to have an additional presentation on EVV at a future meeting.
* Lisa asked for updates on the filling of the Medicaid Director’s position. Connie does not have updates at this time.
* Fred Wilcox asked if it is possible to compare the provider networks available in 2015 and now. Connie explained that this would have to be a request to Matt Highland request.

11:40 **Olmstead Plan Discussion**

* Connie asked for feedback on how the taskforce would like to be involved in updating the Olmstead Plan. Mari specified that it would be helpful to assure access to to technology, which includes factors like appropriate internet and equipment needed to access telehealth services. In addition to making it available, staff must have training on how to use equipment. Dawn shared that Kevin Dalin with Tech4Impact is writing a grant to assist in finding appropriate technology.
* June Klein-Bacon specified that it would be helpful to examine the challenges with data collection more closely. The Olmstead Plan Committee will review this and share with the taskforce. Paula mentioned that it would also be helpful to know which DHS departments are also addressing elements of the Olmstead Plan. Jenn Wolfe suggested possibly asking a graduate student or other organization to assist with the data review.

12:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* 1. Executive Committee Report – no report
  2. Nominations Committee Report -- Mary provided an overview of the suggested new members to the taskforce, Aaron Green and Greg Fier. Paula motioned to approve, and Mari seconded. Motion passed, no nays or abstentions. The Nominations committee may also work on a training on how to be a good member, how to contribute, know when to speak up. Paula suggests short recorded trainings of approximately 15 minutes each. Lisa suggested including information on Roberts Rules of Order. Michael and Paula volunteered to help.
  3. Olmstead Plan Committee Report – there is an upcoming meeting on Nov. 16
  4. Community Access Committee Report – no report
  5. Medicaid Committee Report – Paula invited guest Jenn Wolfe. Upgrade Medicaid will transition to Iowa Disability League, which will create a space for people with disabilities to learn about their identity, leadership, community care, and existing resources. One initial project will be a Caregivers in Crisis Roundtable on December 7, with an eventual goal to develop a grant proposal to address the caregiver crisis.

12:30      **State Agency Reports**

**Iowa Department of the Blind**

* + - Iowa Department of the Blind has a new public awareness campaign called “If You See Something, Say Something.” A flyer on this campaign was sent via email to members and other interested parties.

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.

1:00       **Public Comment**

* + - * John McCalley with Amerigroup Iowa shared several updates.
      * Ameigroup Iowa is implementing the expanded services that IME requested, such as relaxation of some regulations that facilities must comply with and home-delivered meals.
      * Amerigroup asked members with children using Supported Community Living services to identify challenges and opportunities with virtual learning. This information was provided to the Iowa Department of Education.
      * Amerigroup is monitoring use of the expanded services, including the utilization of telehealth services, so IME can make recommendations on the continued use of them after the pandemic.
      * The Anthem Foundation has provided over $100,000 to foodbanks throughout Iowa to address food insecurity concerns, in response to the derecho and COVID-19. In Fall 2021, Amerigroup will partner with Community Action Agencies to expand housing security and homelessness diversion pilot projects to four additional counties and then start building it out statewide.
      * Amerigroup continues to work with SRCs and others in identifying people who would like to move to the community setting.
      * As of January 1, 2020 Anthem (parent company of Amerigroup) will offer a new Medicare dual-eligible product to the special needs population in 18 counties.
* 1:30     **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

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