**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**March 12, 2021**

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

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Lisa Pakkebier, Kris Graves, Jessica Johanns, Joel Vander Molen, Harriet Gulbranson, Stacie Lane, Jen Simmering, Paula Connolly, Kim Brown, Greg Fier, Derek Laney, Michael Martin, Dawn Francis, Mari Reynolds, Mary Roberts, Aaron Green, Melinda Haley, Daryn Richardson, Brittany Montross, Dawn Francis

Others present: Terri Rosonke, John McCalley, Linda Kellen, Pam Rupprecht, Julie Bergeson, Victoria Carlson, Amber Alainz, Connie Fanselow, Kim Barber, Katrina Carter, Caitlin Owens, Fred Wilcox, Brooke Lovelace, Annie Streng, Courtney Sand, Todd Lange, Lisa Schneider, Di Findley

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

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

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

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

10:20        **DHS Updates – Connie Fanselow**

* DHS created a new department-wide data dashboard, with the goal of increasing public awareness and transparency about all DHS programs. It includes information on DHS operations and activities, including fiscal, child care, child support, facilities, SNAP/FIP, and Health. MHDS is working on additional data to include. It is available at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/dashboard_welcome>
* The Public Consulting Group was selected as the successful bidder to complete an assessment and issue a report with recommendations and options to coordinate and align the programs and services of DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).
* There are several changes in progress to the County Social Services region. Cerro Gordo, Webster, Wright counties will move to the CICS region. Pocahontas and Humboldt counties have been accepted by the Rolling Hills region. Hancock County is in discussions with North West Iowa Care Connections. Emmet County will be moving to the Sioux Rivers region. Regional changes will take effect on July 1, 2021.
* Federal legislation was passed to transition the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number to the 3-digit number 9-8-8 by July 2022. The intention is to have a number that is easy to remember for anyone to be able to access local crisis services through one lifeline. Iowa was awarded a planning grant to assist with the transition and will work with the two Iowa lifeline crisis centers (Foundation 2 and CommUnity) to analyze how the crisis centers interact with local crisis services. A coalition has been formed to develop Iowa’s Implementation Plan which will include:
* Creating a structure for integration of 988 into the existing crisis care continuum.
* Funding and communication strategies
* Capacity building to increase the call numbers that are available

The coalition includes people with lived experience, MHDS representatives, state suicide prevention coordinators, law enforcement, and others. The coalition will meet monthly and meetings will be open to the public.

* COVID Recovery Iowa is a federally funded, virtual mental health counseling program for people affected by COVID 19 or the derecho. It provides individual counseling, group counseling, personal supports, and education. The program includes crisis lines, virtual outreach counselors, and specialty coordinators to provide focused outreach to vulnerable populations. As of January 2021, they had made 350,000 contacts. Funds for the program are approved through June 2021 and may be extended.
* Transition Resources for Adult Care for Health is intended to make the transition from pediatric to adult health care easier for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and to improve quality of health care for adults with IDD. A survey will be sent out to survey people with IDD, caregivers, and direct support staff on their experiences relating to these topics. More information will be shared in the coming months.
* The [Iowa Community Resources Guide](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Comm569.pdf?121720201640) was developed to inform and assist persons living at the State Resource Centers and their guardians or family members to learn more about the resources available for accessing needed services and supports in the community and address guardian resistance to community transition. It is available online and can be printed. Printed copies are available upon request. Email Connie Fanselow at [cfansel@dhs.iowa.gov](mailto:cfansel@dhs.iowa.gov) for a printed copy.
* Regarding the Olmstead Planning process, DHS continues to work with their data analyst to get the requested data from Medicaid and the MCOs. They are also gathering information on activities, programs, and initiatives that have been completed or created since the previous revision.
* Connie provided updates on the following pieces of legislation:
* **SF461** – providing that only county board supervisors on MHDS governing board can vote on matters related to expenditures – **has passed the Senate**
* **HF773** – requires DHS to do a statewide scan of MH services across the continuum of care and evaluate the value of pursuing an 1115 waiver to fund services in IMDs (Institutions for Mental Disease). A final report would be due 2/15/22 – **has passed the House**
* **SF526** – includes access centers to have facilities that can be used to detain an individual on an involuntary hold – **Recommended by a Senate committee**
* **SF524** – would create an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system study committee to look at expanding the acuity of disabilities a hospital or facility is able to accept. It would increase reimbursement based on level of care and make enhancements to the bed tracking system to accept and report real time information. The study committee would include DHS, IA Hospital Association, MCOs, law enforcement, private payers (insurance), and county MH advocates. A report would be due 12/15/21 – **has passed the Senate**
* **HF294** – would require all state regulated insurance plans to pay equally for MH services provided in-person or via telehealth. It would eliminate site of service requirements and prohibit requiring a professional to be with the patient – **has passed the House**
* **HF 691** – requires Medicaid to do a State Plan Amendment for the EPSDT program to recognize paraprofessionals who hold a registered behavior technician certification – **Recommended by a House committee**
* **HF731** – requires insurance companies to allow use of out-of-state teleheatlh providers if they are licensed in Iowa - **Approved by a House committee**
* **HF784** – requires insurance companies to reimburse telehealth the same as in person visits – **Approved by a House committee**
* **SF 423** – Eliminates Senate confirmation for governor appointees to several boards and commissions including MHDS Commission, Children’s State Board, and DHS Council – **Approved by a Senate committee**
* **SF513** – Requires that reports generated by law enforcement regarding an person experiencing a MH, substance abuse, or housing crisis be kept confidential when the report is generated for the purpose of providing crisis interventions
* **HF196** – would expand the health care professional recruitment program (for physicians practicing in rural communities), currently only DSM University, to other eligible institutions – **Approved by a Senate committee**

Discussion:

* Derek Laney will look into which disability organizations have been involved in HF 773.

11:40 **Legislative Priorities**

Dawn and Lisa clarified the role of the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce in advocacy. The Taskforce informs policymakers on issues that allow people with disabilities to live in the community. The taskforce previously identified the legislative priorities that are noted below. It was determined that it may be best to reach out to other groups that are already doing work in these areas and determine how to partner to advance legislation of mutual interest. Other priorities may arise in the future and the Executive Committee can act as needed since the deadline may be short. The messages that the Taskforce is sending may be echoed by other organizations. Priorities identified include:

* Funding telehealth at the same amount as an in person visit and allowing the use of telehealth beyond the COVID 19 public health emergency
* Addressing shortage of direct support providers
* Adult changing table bill
* Accessible gas pumps
* Home modifications

12:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* 1. Executive Committee Report
* Lisa shared that the Executive Committee signed off on two items due to short notice and items. This included a Livable Homes educational handout and letter in support of telehealth that was drafted by the Community Access Committee.
* The Chair, Vice-Chair, and staff support person are working on defining the roles of Executive Committee members and identifying any additional training needed to effectively serve in their roles.
  1. Nominations Committee Report – Mary Roberts
* The Nominations Committee is discussing ideas for recruitment and retention of members. Some ideas discussed include offering 15 minute refresher trainings before OCTF meetings and offering state agencies a timeslot so they do not need to attend the whole meeting.
  1. Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Dawn Francis, Kris Graves
* The committee met with Connie to discuss what DHS can collect and they are making data requests for other items. This will take a few months to develop and Connie will report back to the taskforce with additional updates when they are ready. Paula shared that DHS is developing a data dashboard to share data with the public.
  1. Community Access Committee Report – Mary Roberts; Kris Graves
* The committee drafted a letter in support of telehealth to expand access to care for people with disabilities.
  1. Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly, Kris Graves
* Paula is monitoring legislation at the federal level that may provide additional oversight of the Medicaid program.

12:30      **State Agency Reports**

* Iowa Finance Authority – Terri Rosonke shared that the rent subsidy program currently has 135 people on their waiting list, which is higher than usual. A reason may be that people have trouble transitioning onto Section 8 Housing vouchers. The Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program will administer $195 million in rent and utility assistance with additional funding coming at a later date. Eligibility requirements and other information is available at <https://www.iowafinance.com/iowa-rent-and-utility-assistance-program/>.
* Reports from the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of the Blind were sent via email.

12:45      **Taskforce Member Reports**

* Dawn shared that the 2021 Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Organization Conference will be September 17 -19, 2021. The conference will target people with disabilities from Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. Speakers include Squirmy and Grubs and others.

1:00 **Public Comment**

* Brooke with the DD Council shared that the council is hosting virtual townhall meetings to offer opportunities for small groups of people to talk with their legislators. The DD Council also updated their Take Action tool on the ID Action website.

1:30      **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.