**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**January 14, 2022**

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

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Joel Vander Molen, Harriet Gulbranson, Lisa Pakkebier, Jessica Johanns, Michael Martin, Melinda Haley, Mari Reynolds, Jen Simmering, Megz Stroback, Marc Hines, Amber Alaniz, Melinda Haley, Aaron Green, Greg Fier, Kris Graves, Brittney Montross

Members absent: Jessica Williams

Others present: Eric Gebhart, Mike Lightbody, Misti Johnson, Connie Fanselow, captioner, Patrick Daughenbaugh, John McCalley, Brooke Lovelace, Amy Desenberg Wines, Morgan Casey, Fred Wilcox, Lisa Schneider, Maggie Ferguson, Di Findley, Emily Berry, Todd Lange, June Klein-Bacon, Kim Barber

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

Jessica motioned to accept the agenda. Brittney seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

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

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

10:30 **State Agency Updates**

**DHS Updates – Connie Fanselow**

* See emailed attachment

**Iowa Department of the Blind**

* Iowa’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the Iowa Department for the Blind – Independent Living are collaborating on a grant. If awarded by the Administration on Community Living, they will develop a program and materials to expand the capacity to provide intergenerational technology assistance for people who are Blind or Deaf/Blind through the development of a volunteer training model utilizing community volunteers from community colleges, high schools, and rural community groups.

**Discussion:** Mari noted that the shift from ICF to HCBS housing for people with disabilities should be for the purposes of community integration, rather than factors a lack of resources. Megz mentioned that due to the staff shortage, some provider agencies are planning to allow staff that are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms to work.

11:15 **Olmstead Plan – Connie Fanselow**

* Connie went through the remaining areas of the Olmstead Plan to ask members what factors are most important to consider as MHDS strives to get better quality data.

12:00 **Continued Discussion of Legislative Priorities**

Supported three priorities recommended by Nominations Committee:

* Increasing reimbursement to direct service providers
* Reform of the HCBS waivers
* Continued authorization of telehealth.

1:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* 1. Executive Committee Report
* The Executive Committee is working on finding a regular time to meet.
	1. Nominations Committee Report – Marc Hines
* Mari described the survey that the Nominations committee sent out to determine priorities that members would like the taskforce to prioritize

Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Open

* No report
	1. Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering
* Jen shared information from from their meeting with Terri Rosonke regarding the HCBS Rent Subsidy program and the Welcome Home Iowa initiative.

E. Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly, Kris Graves

* Did not meet

**1:00 Taskforce Member Reports**

* Mari noted that ASK Resource Center is developing a new resource for transition to adulthood, known as Transition Iowa.

**1:30 Public Comment**

* John McCalley shared that Amerigroup Iowa is promoting COVID 19 vaccination and tracking the percentage of members who are vaccinated and how they are supporting the state in responding to the Department of Justice report. Amerigroup of Iowa also submitted a health equity plan to analyze health disparities among different populations in Iowa. The plan noted many disparities:
* Asthma prevalence in rural Iowa
* Low birthweight and access to services pre and postpartum
* Diabetes management
* Substance use disorder
* Depression management
* Least restrictive environment for people with disabilities in urban & rural areas

1:30      **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:45.