**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**September 9, 2022**

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

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Michael Martin, Lisa Pakkebier, Joel Vander Molen, Lisa Pakkebier, Mari Reynolds, Jen Simmering, Marc Hines, Amber Alaniz, Harriet Gulbranson, Megz Stroback, Melinda Haley, Edward Esbeck, Greg Fier, Aaron Green, Jessica Williams

Others present: Devon McClurken, Garret Frey, Amy Desenberg Wines, Amy Robasse, Pam Rupprecht, Kim Walford, Patti Manna, Terri Rosonke, John McCalley, Morgan Casey

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

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

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

Megz motioned to approve the minutes. Amber seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

11:00 **State Agency Updates**

* **Iowa Housing Authority**

The final deadline for applying for the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance program closed on August 30 and funds must be expended by September 30. They are transitioning to ERA II, which will focus on rapid rehousing for the most vulnerable Iowans at risk of homelessness. They also allocated 1.6 million to the coordinated entry system and efforts to support newly arrived refugees.

* **Iowa Department of Aging**

Working on master plan for aging.

* **Iowa Department of the Blind** – IDB received a grant called the Older Blind Program, which targets Iowans over age 55 who are blind or have low vision. The funding provides approximately $300,000 that IDB uses to match state dollars. IDB also recently received new brochures intended for consumers and another set for ophthalmologists or other professionals.
* **DHS Updates – Connie Fanselow**
* See emailed attachment

Discussion: Mari asked how options to live in the community are presented to individuals who need to move from Glenwood. OCTF is interested in being included in what the state is being asked to do regarding the DOJ investigation and also what the state is doing to strengthen the network of services. DHS’s strategic plan and the Olmstead Plan should be aligned. Mari shared that she met a 29 year old Black man living at a nursing home who didn’t want to be there, but community providers do not have the capacity to serve him. Some Centers for Independent Living provide transition services, but these Centers and services are not available in all counties. Melinda acknowledged that the MFP is short staffed as well and that the shortage of care providers is a nationwide issue.

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

OCTF continued to support three priorities:

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

Discussion: Greg mentioned that an approximately 4.5% wage increase was approved using ARPA funding, which was effective 7/1/2022. Continued funding will require legislative appropriation going forward. Lisa noted that she has met with several Representatives, Senators, and the Governor. Amy Desenberg-Wines suggested partnering with the DD Council to partner on a summary of opportunities to engage with legislators. Marc suggested that it may be helpful to target newly elected officials.

Action items: Mari suggested that the Taskforce may want to consider doing a Legislative Advocacy Day. Amber noted that meetings with legislative members could also be done virtually in small groups. It may be helpful to write a summary of the DOJ report. Regarding the letter to Director Garcia, Greg motioned to allow the Executive Committee to continue to revise the letter and send it when complete. Mari seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

12:50 **OCTF Committees Discussion – Paula Connolly**

Amy Desenberg-Wines requested clarification on the purpose and focus of different OCTF subcommittees. Jen Simmering shared that the Community Access Committee sent a letter to Liz Matney and Director Garcia regarding continuation of telehealth. They are also working on engaging the Iowa State Fair Board in using an assessment tool to make the State Fair more accessible.

1:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* 1. Executive Committee Report
* The Executive Committee is reviewing the bylaws and discussing possibly switching the large group OCTF meetings to a different day, with the hope of being more convenient for members and state agency representatives.
  1. Nominations Committee Report – Marc Hines
* Marc shared that the Nominations Committee had 13 applicants and they selected four to fill the open slots. Proposed applicants include: Amy Desenberg-Wines, Garret Frey, Monalisa McGee, Michelle Allmadinger. Joel motioned to approve new members. Mari seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
  1. Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Mari Reynolds
* No report

1. Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering

* The CAC committee received a response from Dir. Garcia and Liz Matney regarding their request for more information about coverage of telehealth services after the public health emergency ends.

E. Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly

* No report

**1:00 Taskforce Member Reports**

* No taskforce member reports

**1:30 Public Comment**

* John McCalley with Amerigroup shared that IME awarded a contract to Amerigroup and Molina Health care. Iowa Total Care will continue with their current contract. Amerigroup created a Community Integration grant program that will help address the lack of access of choices in community living supports and services across Iowa, especially in rural areas. Case managers ask members living in nursing facilities annually if they would prefer to live elsewhere. A transition team specializes in finding a new placement and working with MFP or financial assistance to support the move.

1:30      **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.