**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**March 10, 2023**

**This meeting was held via Zoom.**

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Mary Roberts, Lisa Pakkebier, Joel Vander Molen, Michael Martin, Amy Desenberg-Wines, Jen Simmering, Mari Brown, Harriet Gulbranson, Marc Hines, Jessica Williams, Garret Frey, Melinda Haley, Aaron Green, Megz Stroback, Paula Connolly, Greg Fier, Amber Alaniz, Michelle Allmandinger, Edward Esbeck

Others present: Kim Walford, Eric Gebhart, Patti Manna, John McCalley, Laury Scheidler, Caitlin Owens, Devon McClurken, Katrina Carter, Teresa Bomhoff, Pam Rupprecht, Lisa Scheider

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

Harriet motioned to accept the agenda. Paula seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

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

Melinda motioned to approve the minutes, with a change to note that the bylaws were sent out to allow voting on changes at the March meeting. Mari seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

11:00 **State Agency Updates**

* **Iowa Department of the Blind** – Governor appointed one new member to the Commission board, Amy Selger. The appointment is through 2025.
* **Department of Education –** Dr. Ann Lebo is leaving and Chad Aldis has been appointed as the new director.

**Discussion:**

* Mari Brown shared that the Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services may be moving from the Iowa Department of Education to Iowa Workforce Development. She explained that there is some concern that this change may make it more difficult to work with the Iowa Department of Education and schools and share data, which could create delays for students with disabilities.

11:45 **Professor Josephine Gittler on Senate File 295 and House Bill 109 & Discussion**

* Professor Gittler shared information on her interpretation of the impact of SF 295 and HF 265 on people with disabilities.
* Taskforce discussed whether they are allowed to take a position on specific bills that impact people with disabilities and the means by how the taskforce would determine a specific stance. Mari suggested the Executive Committee draft a proposal to address the issue and discuss it with the entire committee at the next meeting, though this comes with a risk of missing the opportunity to act on this bill. The Executive Committee will discuss it at their meeting. Individuals are encouraged to advocate on this issue on their own in the meantime.

12:50 Chair and Vice Chair Roles

* Lisa explained that her term as Chairperson is up in September and invited members to consider taking the role of Chair or Vice Chair. Joel Vander Molen is interested in the Vice Chair position.

1:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* 1. Executive Committee Report
* Lisa reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws that were previously shared with at the January meeting. Joel motioned to approve the bylaws changes. Michael seconded. Motion passed. No nays or abstentions.
* Director Garcia will be invited to attend and speak at least two OCTF meetings. We will provide dates of the meetings to her office and ask which are convenient to her.
  1. Nominations Committee Report – Marc Hines
* No report
  1. Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Mari Reynolds
* The Olmstead Plan Committee met to review the Iowa HHS Data Dashboard, but determined that it would be helpful to have an Iowa HHS representative to assist in using the dashboard and understanding the data. Paula shared that Iowa HHS has an Integration Initiative and Jen reminded that there is a Mathematica report. Anne will reach out to Iowa HHS to schedule a meeting.

1. Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering

- The CAC continued their discussion about wanting to have a physical presence at the Capitol for advocacy. They are interested in participating in Ed Roberts Day on January 23, 2024. They are also interested in having a virtual option to allow those that have transportation challenges or other issues accessing it to participate.

E. Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly

* Paula invited any members with thoughts on the direction or issues that they would like the Medicaid Committee to address to contact her.

**1:00 Taskforce Member Reports**

* The ARC of Iowa was invited to do a segment on a community radio station, titled I Am Able. It is live on the KHOI radio station on the first and last Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Email [paula50266@gmail.com](mailto:paula50266@gmail.com) with any ideas for future programs.
* Amy Desenberg-Wines is part of a workgroup on digital access and equity. This includes access to wi-fi, access to devices, and support for training or technical assistance on how to use technology. Amy will continue to share information.
* Garret Frey shared that he contacted Liz Matney about creating a direct care worker registry to allow individuals that need care providers to connect with them directly. Garret explained that he can train his own staff, but it is difficult in our current system to do outreach and to raise wages to an appropriate level to meet his needs. Paula mentioned a need to the ability to pay for job shadowing, coaching, and benefits. Garret will create a video documenting his concerns and will share it with Lisa.

**1:30 Public Comment**

* John McCalley shared that Amerigroup has been assisting members who reside at Glenwood Resource Center (GRC) to move 109 people to home and community-based settings of their choosing. There are still 60 Amerigroup members residing at GRC. They have noted capacity issues in Southwest Iowa that make it difficult to serve these individuals, such as a lack of accessible transportation in the community. They created a Community Integration Grant program to build capacity and address these issues, including the purchase of accessible vans and funding the modifications of waiver homes. Secondly, home and community-based support staff may lack the skills to meet the needs of people with complex needs. Amerigroup brought in… John will share more information at the next meeting on the trainings that they have done for provider organizations. John also shared a reminder that the Iowa Medicaid started the process to determine eligibility among members, which requires members to open, read, and respond to paperwork by the stated deadline.
* The Iowa Office of Recovery Services is conducting a survey to determine which mental health and disability services people have utilized, what has worked well, barriers, etc. It is open to any person that has used services in Iowa or family members. Anne will share the survey via email. The survey is open until June and is available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K8TGMRV>

1:30      **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.