**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**September 10, 2021**

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

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Dawn Francis, Kris Graves, Marc Hines, Kim Brown, Greg Fier, Michael Martin, Joel Vander Molen, Brittney Montross, Mari Reynolds, Jen Simmering, Harriet Gulbranson, Stacie Lane, Paula Connolly, Jfur Erixon, Jessica Johanns

Others present: Amy Desenberg Wines, June Klein Bacon, Theresa Armstrong, Pam Rupprecht, Fred Wilcox, Caitlin Owens, Morgan Casey, Di Findley

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

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

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

Michael motioned to approve the minutes. Joel seconded. Motion passed. No nays or abstentions.

10:30 **State Agency Updates**

**DHS Updates – Theresa Armstrong**

* The contractor for the IDPH and DHS Alignment project identified touchpoints where IDPH and DHS interface with the public. The Contractor, PCG, is now working with internal teams to understand these connection points better to crate a vision for the future. determine touchpoints with the public. PCG will reach out to stakeholders outside of state agencies over the next several months.
* DHS anticipates a report from the Department of Justice on community integration to be released soon. The State Resource Centers are reviewing strategies to improve discharge planning and improve access to community-based services and determine next steps. DHS is also compiling a summary report of all activities completed in the past year in response to the Department of Justice report.
* DHS’s American Rescue Plan application was designed to support the Community Integration Plan, with three overarching areas. These include:
  + increasing training and support (e.g. crisis response provider training, training for families, support for information technology infrastructure)
  + expanding access to services – DHS released a RFP to evaluate health, aging, and disability services and identify gaps. Also funded several pilot projects.
  + Workforce (recruitment and retention of staff)
* DHS posted a few other RFPs. One is Building a Children’s System of Care for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances. This would allow children that are not eligible for Medicaid to access wraparound services and would coordinate community services. Another one would offer peer operated services, which are owned by a person in recovery.
* Glenwood Resource Center is partnering with the University of Iowa to recruit a Chief Medical Officer. It will be a full faculty appointment and will be based at Glenwood Resource Center.
* DHS and the MHDS regions are collaborating to create performance-based contracts, which will allow regions that meet certain performance measures to access additional funding. DHS is working to assure that data is collected transparently, easy to access, and consistently. DHS has emergency rules that are going to MHDS commission. Recent legislation created an incentive fund, which would allow additional funding for regions that demonstrate need and meet performance measures.
* Intensive residential service homes are habilitation or ID waiver supported community living services. DHS anticipates having a few providers pilot changes in how these services are provided and who they are provided to.

**Iowa Finance Authority** has delivered over $500 million in relief funding to Iowans since COVID 19 began. They continue to administer the Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance program, which requires applicants to meet income limits and have had a financial hardship due to COVID. The Governor applied for a different line of funding that would allow applicants with any kind of financial hardship, not just those due to COVID 19. The link for financial assistance is: [**https://www.iowafinance.com/about/covid-19-ifa-recovery-assistance/**](https://www.iowafinance.com/about/covid-19-ifa-recovery-assistance/)

1:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* 1. Executive Committee Report
* 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 – Marc Hines
* Marc provided a summary of the three members that the Nominations Committee suggested for the taskforce: Megz Strobeck, Amber Alaniz, and Jessica Williams. Michael motioned to accept these new members and Jen Simmering seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion approved.
* The Committee will review the OCTF application process.
  1. Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Dawn Francis, Kris Graves
* No report
  1. Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering
* No Report

E. Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly, Kris Graves

* No report

**Taskforce Member Reports**

* Dawn shared that the Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution Conference will be September 17-19. It will be virtual and is free.
* Paula shared Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is hosting townhalls. Also, the Iowa Department of Transportation has embraced adult sized changing spaces and the public is invited to participate in meetings regarding future restrooms on Interstates. Changing Spaces is also working with Matt McCoy to allow funding for businesses that want to add adult sized changing tables. Blank Park Zoo is adding a adult sized table.
* Jen Simmering and Marc Hines volunteered to draft a letter in support of the Better Choices Better Jobs Act.

1:00 **Public Comment**

* Caitlin Owens mentioned the Disability Exchange Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/disability-exchange>
* June Klein Bacon shared that the Brain Injury Alliance has noticed that the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services stay of continuation on HCBS waiver services ended in July and that they have seen assessments begin again. This has resulted in a reduction of service hours or a cancellation of waiver services due to dramatic changes in assessments. Upon review, it was determined that the Mayo Portland assessment was done incorrectly and did not include diverse input from families and providers and there is no oversight of the Mayo Portland assessment. The Brain Injury Alliance requested that DHS review this issue.

1:30      **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:10.