**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**May 12, 2023**

**This meeting was held via Zoom.**

10:00          **Welcome and Introductions**

Members present: Marc Hines, Mary Roberts, Jessica Williams, Joel Vander Molen, Amy Desenberg Wines, Brittney Montross, Michelle Allmandinger, Harriet Gulbranson, Lisa Pakkebier, Mari Brown, Megz Stroback, Paula Connolly, Edward Esbeck, Jen Simmering, Michael Martin, Greg Fier

Others present: Connie Fanselow, Eric Gebhart, Terri Rosonke, Danielle Workman, Bakar Hamad, Pam Rupprecht, Todd Lange, Devon McClurken, Caitlin Owens

Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

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

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

Mary motioned to approve the minutes. Paula seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

11:00 **State Agency Updates**

* Iowa Department of Education – Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services will move to Iowa Workforce Development on July 1. This means that Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services will no longer be covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and counselors will not be able to access the ACHIEVE system. They will establish a consent to exchange information in its place.
* Iowa Finance Authority - The Iowa Homeowner Assistance Funding for those facing foreclosure remains available. They are also working on a home repair pilot program and will develop a tool to determine eligibility and online application. The Legislature approved a 25% increase in the HCBS rent subsidy if Governor Reynolds signs it. This funding is intended as a bridge to allow rental assistance for people on the waitlist until they can get on a section 8 voucher.
* Iowa Health and Human Services – see attachment

**Discussion:**

* Jen Simmering shared some questions from the Community Access Committee about the Mathematica report. The discussion related to the meaning of point in time screening, the differences between system navigation and case management, and establishing standards or a certification for case managers.

11:45 **Allies in Advocacy – Edward Esbeck**

* Edward Esbeck shared that the Allies in Advocacy is a project by a group of self-advocates to address several key disability issues that overlap with OCTF priorities. Areas of focus include the direct support workforce and caregiver crisis, the perception of disability in Iowa, and the lack of access to HCBS services. It is supported by Iowa’s DD Council and the Iowa UCEDD. Ed will provide updates as needed.

12:00 **OCTF Vice Chair role**

* Amy motioned to approve Joel as Vice Chair. Megz seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

12:30 **OCTF Process to Register Opinions or Write Letters**

* Connie clarified that one OCTF member could be designated to register as a lobbyist to declare the Taskforce’s position on an issue. Otherwise, individual members could register as a lobbyist, but could not declare their opinion as the Taskforce’s opinion. Marc shared the draft process that the Executive Committee drafted to define the processes for writing letters or stating other opinions. Joel mentioned that the Community Access Committee had discussed the possibility of forming a committee to monitor legislation before and during the legislative session.

1:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* Executive Committee Report – Lisa Pakkebier
* The Executive Committee reviewed the draft process that Marc Hines created on how to determine if OCTF should reach consensus when registering opinions or writing letters. Members may send feedback by June 12 and the Committee will share a final version at the July meeting. Director Garcia will be at the July OCTF meeting. Email Anne with any questions or topics that you would like her to address by June 12.
* Nominations Committee – Marc Hines
* They will meet soon to review the application process and to review applications.
* Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Mari Reynolds
* The Olmstead Plan Committee is trying to schedule a meeting with Matt Highland’s office regarding how to use the data dashboards.
* Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering

- The CAC will meet on June 16 at the State Fairgrounds to provide suggestions on how to improve accessibility. Their next project is to provide education on accessible and inclusive communication. Amy noted that the Great Plains ADA Center that provides technical assistance on ADA compliance.

* Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly
* Paula encouraged members to contact their legislators and invite them to meet to discuss gaps in funding, needs, etc. She is also part of a national effort to allow parents or spouses to be paid caregivers.

**1:30 Taskforce Member Reports**

* Jessica shared that the Make Your Mark conference will be August 30-31 in Coralville, IA.

**1:45 Public Comment**

* John McCalley shared a reminder that the people who use Iowa Medicaid will have to reenroll in Medicaid. Many people who are currently enrolled will not meet income requirements, so will need to move to another provider. Iowa Medicaid is also onboarding a third MCO. Members have a 90 day period to determine if they want to remain with their current MCO, switch to a different MCO, or something else. Amerigroup received a contract to remain as an MCO for the next 8 years. Amerigroup is developing a series of diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings for staff along with other benefits.

2:00      **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 2:04 pm.