**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**July 14, 2023**

**This meeting was held via Zoom.**

10:00 **Welcome and Introductions**

* Members present: Jessica Williams, Lisa Pakkebier, Michelle Allmandinger, Jen Simmering, Mari Brown, Amber Alaniz, Amy Desenberg Wines, Greg Fier, Joel Vander Molen, Paula Connolly, Brittney Montross, Megz Stroback, Edward Esbeck, Harriet Gulbranson, Michael Martin
* Others present: Joey Wesselink, Connie Fanselow, Falicia Beck, Kim Walford, Dawn Graber, John McCalley, Caitlin Owens, Devon McClurken, Eric Gebhart
* Staff support: Anne Crotty

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

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

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

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

10:30 **State Agency Updates**

* Iowa Department of Aging – Morgan Casey shared they are now part of HHS and have a new director, Zach Rhein. Linda Miller retired and will remain as a consultant.
* Iowa Department of Education – Eric Gebhart shared McKenzie Snow is the new director of the Iowa Department of Education.
* Iowa Finance Authority – Terri Rosonke shared part of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is moving to the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The Legislature appropriated additional funding to Home and Community Based Waiver Services which eliminated the rent subsidy waitlist. Iowa Finance Authority also approved 11 awards in the low-income housing tax credit program. More information:
  + <https://www.iowafinance.com/content/uploads/2023/07/2023-Award-Listing.pdf>
  + <https://www.iowafinance.com/content/uploads/2023/07/2023-Housing-Tax-Credit-Awards-Presentation.pdf>

10:35 **DHS Updates**

* Connie Fanselow presented -- see attachment.
* HHS Director, Kelly Garcia
* Aging and Disability Services and Behavioral Health Services will be two entities to allow a focus on each topic.
* Iowa HHS engaged a vendor to conduct a regional assessment to study the structure of HHS services, operational capabilities and gaps, and models for funding and resources that drive the system.
* On July 1 Molina was a new Managed Care Organization. Toolkits are available online to assist with enrollment.
* Iowa HHS is in year 2 of shifting from a HCBS waiver services system that is diagnosis-based to one based on individual needs. It will go to the Iowa Legislature, the Governor, and the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services for final approval.
* Iowa HHS is in year 2 of the process to close the Glenwood Resource Center. Community providers have added services across Iowa to meet community needs. Iowa HHS is balancing following Department of Justice requirements and supporting community living, without overwhelming providers. Iowa HHS intends to increase regional capacity in the future. Ms. Garcia explained they recognize reimbursement between providers in different settings is not equal and they will continue to work to address this issue.

**Discussion:**

* CCBHCs are to provide services for both children as well as adults.
* To address the issue of waitlists for waivers in the future, HHS first needs the cost calculation for the redesign and then will implement a process to reduce the waitlist.
* Regarding the consent decree and timeline, Director Garcia explained some of the requirements in the consent decree differ from what they have heard from stakeholders. Iowa HHS will continue to work with the Department of Justice and stakeholders to balance the need for oversight without being intrusive.
* Dir. Garcia explained there will continue to be some overhead costs for Glenwood Resource Center after it is closed due to requirements in the consent decree. Eventually this funding will be invested into HCBS.
* Kelly shared the enhanced HHS data dashboards were launched last week and they hope to have in depth analysis in the next year. Contact Matt Highland or [dashboards@dhs.state.ia.us](https://iowa-my.sharepoint.com/personal/fmbuck_uiowa_edu/Documents/dashboards@dhs.state.ia.us) for more information. Iowa HHS will offer more townhalls on this topic in the future and recordings are available.
* Director Garcia was encouraged to consider establishing a Home Modification Assistance Fund to allow low-income Iowans with disabilities to receive assistance making modifications that allow them to live at home. It was further explained that Children at Home provides funding for needs that are not covered by Medicaid for qualifying children under age 22 and could be used as a template for a program for adults.
* Amy Desenberg-Wines noted gaps in service coverage of the Centers for Independent Living and requested that Director Garcia include the CILs in the review to improve the quality and consistency of services. Amy and Megz will meet with Dir. Garcia, Beth Townsend, and CIL staff.

12:00 **New Support Staff Introduced**

* Falicia Beck will start providing support for the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce, with assistance from Anne.

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

* Jen Simmering motioned to approve the process to register opinions or write letters on behalf of the OCTF large group. Paula seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

1:00 **Taskforce Committee Reports**

* Executive Committee Report – Lisa Pakkebier
* Prepared questions for Dir. Garcia
* The secretary position will be open October 1.
* Nominations Committee – Mari Brown
* The Taskforce has two open positions. The Nominations Committee selected two candidates, Joel Wesselink and Danielle Workman.
  + Paula motioned to accept these two members. Greg seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
* Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Mari Brown
  + Iowa HHS data dashboard staff members demonstrated how to use the data dashboards and discussed more collaboration on data collection. This meeting occurred before the enhanced data dashboards were available.
* Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering
  + Some OCTF members toured the Iowa State Fairgrounds and discussed accessibility at the Iowa State Fairgrounds to discuss accessibility with the CEO of the Iowa State Fair, Jeremy Parsons.
  + The Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly
    - Anne emailed the document on the new Medical Day Care for Children and Adult Day Care services available through HCBS. She continues to advocate for allowing parents to receive funding to care for their children with a disability.
    - The next Town Hall meeting is July 27, and you must register to attend.
    - Anne emailed the Mathematica survey on services for individuals and families with disabilities.

1:45 **Public Comment**

* John McCalley shared Amerigroup is advocating Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to be ADA compliant. There is a contract with the 3 MCOs to allow members to return to a previous MCO by September 30.

2:00 **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.