**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**

**September 8, 2023**

**This meeting was held via Zoom.**

**Welcome and Introductions**

* **Members present**: Mari Brown, Paula Connelly, Edward Esbeck, Greg Fier, Garret Frey, Harriet Gulbranson, Melinda Haley, Marc Hines, Brittney Montross, Lisa Pakkebier, Jen Simmering, Megz Stroback, Joel Vander Molen, Joey Wesselink, Jessica Williams
* **Others present**: Teresa Bomhoff, Connie Fanselow, Eric Gebhart, Ben Grauer, Theresa Jennings, Char Joens, June Klein-Bacon, Devon McClurken, Terri Rosonke, Pam Ruppercht, Kimberley Walford
* **Staff support**: Anne Crotty and Falicia Beck
* **Members absent**:Amber Alaniz, Michelle Allmandinger, Amy Desenberg-Wines, Aaron Greene, Michael Martin, Mary Roberts

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

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

**Review, Corrections and Approval of the July minutes**

* Adjust Mari’s last name from Reynolds to Brown.
* Terri corrected the July minutes to say “parts of cultural affairs […]”
* Megz motioned to approve the minutes. Jessica seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

**State Agency Updates**

* Terri Rosonke – Iowa Finance Authority
	+ HousingIowa Conference this week, always the week of Labor Day
	+ HCBS rent subsidy: there was an increased appropriation earlier this year; no waiting list still, IFA was able to clear the backlog of waiting list applicants; fair market rates increased so might have waitlists again soon; able to serve 275 people – as a bridge until they are able to receive Section 8 Vouchers
	+ Homeowners assistance fund: Mortgage assistance remains open, accepting applications on online application portal
	+ Boards and commissions recommendations – Iowa Council on Homelessness is recommended to be eliminated (IFA homelessness provides staff support)
	+ Websites shared:
		- <https://www.iowafinance.com/renter-programs/home-and-community-based-services-rent-subsidy-program/>
		- [Iowa Homeowner Assistance Fund - Iowa Finance Authority](https://www.iowafinance.com/ihaf/)
* Kimberley Walford – Department for the Blind
	+ Director has monthly forum. Forum in November the director won’t be there but Kim will lead this. They want people to join for public comments to help improve the department, this is on their website
	+ Quarterly forums online for Independent Living, next one is in November (Wednesday)
	+ There is someone who is retiring after 36 years and the department is now looking for a new teacher for the Blind

**DHS Updates**

* Connie Fanselow presented -- see attachment.
	+ **Discussion:**
* Aging and Disability Resource Centers expansion, might be focused more on the disability piece. This is still in the works with the realignment. Community integration staff and Aging Services from the Department of Aging staff have come together. Want to expand who in Iowa who is an ADRC, what our info and referral services are (Iowa Compass, YourLife Iowa, 211, etc) and how to combine this. Main focus to move it from mostly Aging to both Aging and Disability equally getting resources.
* Encouraged others to participate in the CCBHC monthly meetings to share feedback in public comment – one topic discussed was the rural area level of services
* HOME: Point in time screening – to rule out people who would not meet the criteria and trying to get them with services they would qualify for. Shouldn’t eliminate options, just eliminates the risk of people waiting for a list they wouldn’t qualify. Connecting people to other services while they wait even if they qualify to give as much support and level of service they can. Trying to come up with a plan to make those waiting lists more reasonable (a few months rather than years).
	+ - Waitlist link: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/7.6.23%20Monthly%20Slot%20and%20Wait%20list%20Public_0.pdf>
* CCBHC qualifications to be served: anyone in crisis can be served, serves both adults and children

**Discussion of Possible Legislative Watch Committee**

* Jen shared Legislative Watch Committee proposal
	+ Purpose – Monitor bills relevant to people with disabilities and alert the OCTF in time to take action in support of opposition in the form of a letter or formal declaration prior to March 31 (the second funnel)
	+ Could be absorbed into the Medicaid Committee or a fresh committee
	+ Timeline
		- October/November – Meet once to begin preparations for Hill Day using this calendar (<https://das.iowa.gov/capitol-complex-events/tab2/2024-01>). Notify members of the hill day and plans for attendance. In 2024, this will be January 24 in conjunction with the independent living day on the hill, reach out to the SILC to discuss plans.
		- December – Meet once to review bills from the previous session that may be revived and make recommendations to the taskforce for action. We would use the Bill Tracker provided by the Iowa DD Council (<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker>).
		- January – Meet every other week to review the DD Council’s Bill Watch document OR meet once per month with an email follow up session to stay current with new proposed bills or amendments. The outcome of these meetings will be to recommend bills for action to the OCTF Executive Committee/whole taskforce. Attend Day on the Hill.
		- February – Same as January
		- March – Same as January
	+ **Discussion**
		- Paula suggested starting in August and partnering with InfoNet and DD Council with Capitol Chats
		- Expansion into the Medicaid Committee, email Falicia to get people who are interested and get started on October 11 meeting
			* Can meet and have recommendations to vote on at the November OCTF meeting
		- Move forward with Day on the Hill (no funding from OCTF, it’s all on the member) – if we changed the date of the OCTF meeting to this day to be meeting in person to get stipend
		- Offer online option for those who can’t afford to come in person
		- Connie will discuss with leadership if this is what is decided to shift January meeting

**Taskforce Committee Reports**

* Executive Committee Report – Lisa Pakkebier
	+ Met 8/14 discussed possible Legislative Watch Committee
	+ Election of officers – asked if anyone else is interested in serving as chair of the OCTF
		- Lisa is willing to fulfill another term as chair
	+ Each voting member is requested to participate in a committee and if you would like to switch to another committee, email Falicia
	+ Transitioning to emailing Falicia and CCing Anne
* Nominations Committee – Marc Hines
	+ Joey Wesselink was selected as a new member
	+ 2 open positions
	+ Mari created a letter to send out for a push for new applicants
* Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Mari Brown
	+ Met with Connie and reviewed the most recent Olmstead Plan and touched on outcomes and goals
		- Will be having separate meetings to break down each goal area separately (there are 9 goal areas)
	+ Connie discussed a survey tied to the Plan for data
	+ Amy will be taking over as chair
* Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering
	+ Next meeting on Monday, September 11
	+ Motto: Find a little thing we can do and do that thing
	+ Improving accessibility in communication, inclusive communication
	+ Jessica is working on a document to share with community colleges for turning on their closed captioning: DMACC – advocating for opening classes for people to join what classes they want
	+ Paula wants to check on latest update on what is best practices for reader screens for the Blind with the head of the department of the Blind
	+ Megz added to share your name before you speak and suggested we put that on any educational material
	+ Joel shared the Iowa State Fair already implemented some of the changes – more accessible parking
* The Medicaid Committee Report – Paula Connolly
	+ Links shared
		- <https://hhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/HOMEtown%20Locations.pdf>
		- <https://hhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/advisory-groups/townhall>
			* Share what is working and what isn’t for the waivers, dates and times to come for the locations
		- Looking to have a co-chair
		- Senator Brown (D) & Senator Portman (R) bipartisan support to update SSI in asset rules, raise those limits, 6 components (marriage penalty is being addressed in the proposed bill S2065). The Senators are having a media blitz on September 12.
			* Paula will be sending fact sheets to Falicia to send out to the Taskforce
			* Ben Grauer shared “This bill modifies eligibility for, and other components of, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, including by (1) increasing applicable income and resource limits used to determine SSI eligibility, (2) equalizing treatment of married couples when both spouses receive SSI as compared to two unmarried individuals, and (3) eliminating the penalty on SSI applicants or recipients who transfer resources to another individual for less than fair market value”

**Recognition of Members Terming Off**

* Mari Brown
* Melinda Haley

**Reminder of November Meeting**

* November meeting is the first Monday of the month rather than the second Monday as usual due to Veteran’s Day

**Public Comment**

* Theresa Jennings – Molina
	+ Integrated case management: wanting to provide the care their members need and is always open to feedback and ways to improve
	+ Transition of care benefit – family and member who will have a financial benefit to help support the member through the transition from an institution to in the community
	+ LTSS Stakeholder Advisory Committee – reach out to Theresa to get involved (once a quarter meeting)
	+ Contact information: Theresa.Jennings@MolinaHealthcare.com
* Devon McClurken – Office of Recovery Services & NAMI Iowa
	+ Survey results shared: <https://orsiowa.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/55/2023/07/2023-ORS-Community-Survey-Results.pdf>
		- Used the results to inform HHS for program & policy
* Ben Grauer – UCEDD/DIF Iowa Blueprint for Change
	+ October 18 meeting: wanting providers, and families and individuals with lived experiences
	+ Overview of the grant: pool of money for innovation in employment, pilot program to be in schools and apprenticeships, pushing for Iowa to be an Employment 1st state
	+ Website: [Iowa Blueprint for Change (DIF) Grant | Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services](https://ivrs.iowa.gov/welcome-ivrs/iowa-blueprint-change-dif-grant)
	+ Mari suggested for others to be involved in this to help change the system
	+ Contact information: ben-grauer@uiowa.edu
* Mari Brown – ASK Resource Center
	+ Government Committee Review Process of the Boards and Commissions: OCTF has been untouched, but it would be good to collaborate with other departments/groups that have been morphed.
		- Paula agreed and shared it’s important to be a part of the public comment.
			* DD Council has a link on their website for these proposed changes
		- June Klein-Bacon shared proposals to be eliminated
			* Proposed Eliminations
				+ Community Mental Health Centers
				+ Mental Health and Disability Services Standards Committee
				+ County Care Facility Mental Health and Disability Standards Advisory Committee
			* Consolidate/Merge
				+ Advisory Council on Brain Injuries into the Behavioral Commission
				+ Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board
				+ Commission of Persons with Disabilities
				+ Mental Health and Disability Services Commission
			* Reorganize/Other Changes
				+ Iowa Autism Council

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