

**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce**  
**November 3, 2023**  
**This meeting was held via Zoom.**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Members present:** Michelle Allmandinger, Paula Connolly, Amy Desenberg-Wines, Edward Esbeck, Greg Fier, Harriet Gulbranson, Marc Hines, Michael Martin, Lisa Pakkebie, Jen Simmering, Megz Stroback, Joel Vander Molen, Joey Wesselink
  - **Members absent:** Amber Alaniz, Garrett Frey, Brittany Montross (excused), Jessica Williams
- **Others present:** Barbra Brottman, Katrina Carter Skinner, Morgan Casey, Jean Ohlen, Maggie Ferguson, Ernie Geiger, Connie Fanselow, June Klein-Bacon, Brooke Lovelace, Patti Manna, Devon McClurken, John McCalley, Koki Nakagawa, Caitlin Owens, Terri Rosonke, Pam Ruppercht, Kelly Stull, Kelly Strydom, Jacklynn Sulentic, Kimberley Walford, Judy Warth, Representative Elizabeth Wilson
- **Staff support:** Falcia Beck

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

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

### **Review, Corrections and Approval of the September minutes**

- Ed motioned to approve the minutes. Michelle seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

### **State Agency Updates**

- Terri Rosonke – Iowa Finance Authority
  - HCBS rent subsidy program: after being able to clear the waitlist due to increased funding, there is now a short waitlist of around 15-20 people with a 1-2 month wait.
  - HCBS Rent Subsidy Program - IFA has already served more than 300 unique households in Fiscal Year 2024 as compared to 344 served during all of Fiscal Year 2023. Appear on track to provide rental assistance to a record number of lowans eligible under the program.
- Morgan Casey – Division of Aging & Disability services
  - HOMEtown Conversations, asking people to call the Lifelong Links for any questions about direct service.
    - [LifeLong Links Aging & Disability Resource Center - Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging \(nei3a.org\)](https://lifelonglinks.org/)
  - Liz Matney is wanting more people who are using the services to attend the HOMEtown Conversations.

### **HHS Updates**

- Connie will be retiring April 2024.
- HHS Updates [see attached].

**Discussion:** <https://hhs.iowa.gov/doj>

### **Taskforce Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee Report – Lisa Pakkebie
  - Met October 9
  - Amy's first meeting (new chair on Community Access Committee).
  - Discussed Legislative Watch Committee and how to incorporate it into the Medicaid Committee
  - The goal for every OCTF member is to be involved in at least one committee.
- Nominations Committee – Marc Hines

- Met November 1
- 4 open slots, 10 applicants.
- Ernie Geiger, Bill Loyd, Kelly Stull, and David Thielen were selected as new members.
  - Paula motioned to accept new members. Ed seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
- Nominations Committee will work to have a new draft for the application for the OCTF in January.
- Olmstead Plan Committee Report – Amy Desenberg-Wines
  - Scheduled 2 new dates to meet: November 29 from 1PM – 2:30PM, and December 12 from 10AM – 11:30AM.
  - Will be having separate meetings to break down each goal area separately (there are 9 goal areas), the first meeting on November 29 will address Goal #1.
  - The DOJ released new guidance on the Americans with Disabilities Act and Employment Services for People with Disabilities (after this guidance was previously rescinded under the last presidential administration). You can find the guidance [here](#) and the press release [here](#). This is commonly referred to as the Olmstead employment guidance.
- Community Access Committee Report – Jen Simmering
  - Last meetings have been more about the Legislative Watch Committee.
    - The idea is to bring policies to the large group to provide quicker action on topics.
      - This year’s goal: bring 1-2 issues to the Taskforce to either write letters or advocate on the Hill.
      - Action items to meet this goal are to attend the DD Council’s Capitol Chats and create a partnership with the DD Council.
        - Brooke Lovelace shared: legislative agenda is available for review now.
          - <https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/legislative-agenda-2>
      - Meeting with legislator about sharing experiences.
        - [Message-Worksheet.pdf \(cdn-website.com\)](#)
      - Representative Wilson ([Elizabeth.wilson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.wilson@legis.iowa.gov))
        - Meetings both during state legislative sessions and outside of that are effective – can meet in different counties and invite state legislators to participate.
      - Koki Nakagawa shared: OCTF could join the Arc of Iowa for a day on the Hill
- The Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee Report – Paula Connolly
  - HCBS waiver updates: Iowa currently has seven, recommendation to switch to 2 waivers.
    - HOMEtown Conversations (both in person and virtual options).
  - Senator Brown [D] & Senator Portman [R] reintroduced bill S2065 to update SSI in asset rules, raise those limits and addresses the marriage penalty.
    - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/s2065>
  - Medicaid waived some rules and expanded services during pandemic (Appendix K).
    - Direct Services for parents/families to become permanent.
    - Medical Daycare for children to become permanent.
    - Adult Daycare has been expanded so it can be administered in an individual’s home – Iowa is on track to get this approved with CMS.

### Overview of Iowa Blueprint for Change Grant (DIF) – Kelly Strydom & Judy Warth

- Amy Desenberg-Wines crafted the grant & ICIE.
- Infographic shared [see attached].
- Everyone is asked to join the collective meetings – can email Judy ([judith-warth@uiowa.edu](mailto:judith-warth@uiowa.edu)) or Kelly ([kelly-bumpus@uiowa.edu](mailto:kelly-bumpus@uiowa.edu)).

### Discussion

- Outreach that is effective

- Chambers of Commerce throughout Iowa
- Job fairs

### **Public Comment**

- Anne Crotty has taken a new position with HHS as the ADA Coordinator.
- John McCalley
  - HOME (Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments) initiative updating the 1915c HCBS waivers.
  - February will launch webinar series – Amerigroup partnered with UCEDD about Health equity and older adults and person with disabilities. 13-14 modules designed for anyone in the long-term services and supports.
    - Will reach out after this is completed to add to as an agenda item possibly in March 2024.
- June Klein-Bacon
  - BIAIA advocacy day on the hill is planned for February 14<sup>th</sup> and have staff on hand to support talking to legislators if helpful.

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

***Next Meeting: January 12, 2024***