

Olmstead Consumer Task Force

Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2024
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Virtual Only

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Pakkebier (chair)	Bill Loyd
Joel Vander Molen (co-chair)	Michael Martin
Michelle Allmandinger	Brittany Montross
Paula Connolly	Jen Simmering
Amy Desenberg-Wines	Megz Stroback
Greg Fier	David Thielen
Harriet Gulbranson	Joey Wesselink
Marc Hines	Jessica Williams

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amber Alaniz (excused)	Ernie Geiger
Edward Esbeck	Kelly Stull (excused)
Garret Frey	

STAFF SUPPORT:

Falicia Beck

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Julie Bergeson	Patti Manna
Mari Brown	Devon McClurken
Morgan Casey	John McCalley
Johlen Chances	Koki Nakagawa
Anne Crotty	Caitlin Owens
Maggie Ferguson	Zach Rhein
Connie Fanselow	Terri Rosonke
Ben Grauer	Pam Ruppercht
Rep Chuck Isenhardt	Shan Sasser
Kathy Kay	Lisa Schneider
Todd Lange	Jacklynn Sulentic
Brooke Lovelace	Savannah Tellgren
	Kimberley Walford

Materials Referenced

Olmstead Consumer Task Force January 12th, 2024, Meeting Agenda DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force November 3rd, 2023, Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Aging and Disability Services and Behavioral Health Services Updates 01.12.2024
DD Council PowerPoint for the Olmstead Consumer Task Force 01.12.2024
Olmstead Plan 2016 - 2020

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Pakkebier, Olmstead Consumer Task Force chair called the meeting to order at 10:00am thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established.

Review & Vote on Approval of January 12th, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Marc Hines made a motion to approve the January 12th, 2024, meeting agenda. Harriet Gulbranson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review & Vote on Approval of November 3rd, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Michael Martin made a motion to approve the November 3rd, 2023, meeting minutes. Michelle Allmandinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State Agency Updates

Kim Walford provided updates from the Department of the Blind. The Department received \$691,530 to operate a program for Older Blind (anyone over the age of 55). Data collected from last year showed 97% of people served who have one or more independent living training services demonstrated improvement in their capacity to function in their home and community, 96% individuals complete their plan and reported increase in ability to engage in daily activities, and 97% individuals reported an ability to maintain their current living situation. The cost per person served for the year was \$2209.36 which helps keep people out of a nursing home.

Maggie Ferguson provided updates from Public Health/HHS. Disability in Iowa Public Health Assessment is now Disability and Health Report, this looks into various health behaviors, health outcomes, and other health measures to see what various disparities people with disabilities are experiencing.

Terri Rosonke provided updates from Iowa Finance Authority. PSH has had financial difficulties, Anawim is the PSH in Polk County and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines requested stakeholders at the city, county, and state to help establish a PSH fund, to provide a crisis stabilization fund: \$100,000 each from the city, county and IFA, and are looking to secure private donations as well. Homeowner Assistance Fund provides mortgage assistance to income qualified homeowners when people have fallen behind on payments related to the home (mortgage, property taxes, homeowner's insurance, HOA, etc.) that has been ongoing for 1-2 years from Covid relief dollars. Home Repair Pilot Program is funded from the same federal home assistance dollars, the homeowner has to be income qualified, must have experienced financial hardship due to covid, and have a need for critical home repairs: accessibility or health-related or insurability (insurance will not cover the house due to a need for critical home repairs). This is available in almost every county, 7 or 8 counties do not have it available. Application period opened January 3, hopeful to stay open through January 31, depending on number of applicants. There is \$10,000,000 set aside for this program. The link to the site is <https://www.iowafinance.com/repair/>. The best resource to contact with questions is the call center: 888-668-0927. Leave a voicemail with call back information and the call will be returned the same business day or within 24 hours, they are open Monday – Friday.

Health and Human Services Updates – Connie Fanselow

Connie Fanselow provided an update from Aging and Disability Services and Behavioral Health Services. An attachment was shared with updates on the HHS Strategic Plan, 2023 HCBS updates related to services, Proposed changes to HCBS Waiver Services in 2024, HOME (Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments), Preliminary waiver redesign discussion, The full evaluation report from the Strengthening Iowa's Community-Based Services System, a Transformation Plan created by a HHS team, Statewide LTSS Learning Management System, System Alignment Assessment, the new HHS ADA Coordinator, the New Aging and Disability Services Bureau Chief for Community Integration, Support in times of crisis, Free virtual Psychological First Aid training, 2024 Legislative session beginning, Condition of the State address, House Study Bill 542, Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, the Iowa Medicaid Dashboards, and the Iowa Medicaid Townhalls.

Health and Human Services and the Olmstead Plan Discussion – Zach Rhein, Morgan Casey, Julie Bergeson, Shan Sasser, Connie Fanselow

Amy Desenberg-Wines, Chair of the Olmstead Plan Committee, thanked Zach Rhein and his team and shared the committee hoped to gain clarity on how the plan is utilized, how the plan is or could be monitored, and how the Taskforce can support implementation and integration across other state agencies.

Zach shared to his knowledge the Olmstead Plan is something the state is required to have, but historically has not been a closely monitored plan. He shared one of his roles as the Division Administrator is to ensure the plan is more actionable going forward, and to that end they have created a place in the division called Olmstead Implementation. The Department of Justice also noted it is not enough to simply have an Olmstead Plan, but the state must also be doing everything they can to integrate people into the communities of their choice. Regarding the Olmstead Plan and the Taskforce's concern about the data, Zach shared it's complicated getting data as everyone has to agree upon measures to monitor and how to report that data in a way that is accessible and makes sense. He noted a good role for the Olmstead Plan Committee is to communicate to their staff the type of progress indicators that would be helpful to see, and how best to share that information with the public. Shan Sasser, Bureau Chief for the Planning and Performance Evaluation Bureau, reported that reviewing data and determining metrics for success falls under her purview. She said she has been working with Connie and others to ensure there is alignment between all of the plans the Division is responsible for, and there will be opportunities for the Taskforce to provide input into what they are doing.

Zach also shared current steps working toward synergy among state departments and toward the goals of the Olmstead which include the Strategic Plan for the division of Aging and Disability Services and making sure this reflects the Olmstead Plan. Another initiative is the Multisector Plan for Aging which will be a cross sector and cross government initiative that includes governmental entities, non-profits, and for-profits all working to support individuals across the lifespan.

DD Council Advocacy Strategies – Brooke Lovelace

Brooke Lovelace shared a PowerPoint from Iowa's DD Council. The PowerPoint contained information about advocacy strategies which were Steps to successful advocacy, How to get to know your legislators, Be ready to tell your story, Develop your message, Suggestions for the virtual open house, and the Message worksheet that can be found at:

<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/advocacy-toolkit>.

Taskforce Committee Reports

The Executive Committee updates were provided by Lisa Pakkebier, the chair of the committee. The Committee met on December 11 and discussed ways to improve and enhance the OCTF experience. The Committee will take a look at the agenda in advance and work to invite more speakers.

The Nominations Committee updates were shared by Falicia Beck which were provided by Marc Hines, the chair of the committee. The Committee is working on updating the OCTF application to make it less cumbersome and more accessible for people to fill out by eliminating redundancies and simplifying questions. A copy of the application will be sent for the members to look through.

The Olmstead Plan Committee updates were provided by Amy Desenberg-Wines, the chair of the committee. The Committee discussed talking points for the HHS discussion and will reconvene to figure out what makes sense moving forward in working with HHS in the Olmstead Action Bureau.

The Community Access Committee updates were provided by Joel Vander Molen, a member of the committee. The Committee reviewed things they have been working on and are wanting to work on more projects like the state fair from last year and brought up ideas for the Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee. The Committee asks members to bring ideas similar to the state fair project from last year.

Ben Grauer shared an update requested by the chair of the Community Access Committee. There is a partnership with Muscatine Chamber of Commerce where business leaders in the area by increasing the understanding of individuals with disabilities' ability to work. Kent seeds will be increasing their internship program for people with disabilities.

The Medicaid & Legislative Committee updates were provided by Paula Connolly, the chair of the committee. The Committee created a document for the February 9 event and determined a time of 12pm – 1pm. The tool to find legislators was shared and how to access the information by clicking on the legislator's picture and the email address pops up with other information. The Committee also accounted for accessibility by making the event virtual. There was a request for members to volunteer to speak at the event by using the message worksheet shared by Iowa's DD Council as a template and following the Task Force's 2024 legislative priorities which are aligned with Iowa's DD Council's priorities.

Public Comment

There was an update on Amerigroup's name to Wellpoint. Insurance cards with the old name can continue to be used until new ones are received. Emails will be changing to Wellpoint but if old emails are used, they will be redirected to the new ones.

There was an event shared, the Allies in Advocacy were to host an event January 24 for an Advocacy Open House in Des Moines.

There was a comment in response to a need for funding for homes to be more accessible, the Home Improvement Funding in Des Moines is called ION (Improving our Neighborhoods initiative). There are similar programs throughout the state but need to look into the city/county for more information. A good first call would be Brush with Kindness – a Habitat for Humanity affiliate that does accommodations occasionally.

There was a comment on Milestones Area Agency on Aging still having some limited funding available for their Home Hazard Removal Program. They are moving into the last 6 months of available funds.

There was an event shared, the BIAIA annual conference is being held in Coralville this year on March 7 and 8. Registration is now available on the event tab at www.biaia.org.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Falcia Beck.