

**Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Board of Directors Meeting  
November 9, 2012  
Pleasant Hill Public Library**

Handouts

Agenda

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – September 14, 2012

Executive Committee Minutes – October 10 & 31, 2012; November 1 & 6, 2012

Letter from Michael Bousset, Executive Office – Governor’s position on Medicaid Expansion

Communication from Washington Governor Chris Gregoire re *M.R. v Dreyfus*

Taskforce Letter to Director Durham, Iowa Economic Development Authority, conveying Comments on the EDA’s 2013 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development

Nominations Committee Minutes – October 30, 2012

Draft 2013 Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Membership Application form

Housing/Transportation Committee Minutes – November 5, 2012

Extract from Iowa Finance Authority “Part A – Requirements for 9% Tax Credits” offering scoring incentives for LIHTC applications supporting *Olmstead*

Ad Hoc Bylaws Workgroup Minutes – October 25, 2012

Proposed Bylaws Revision Regarding Term Limits for Taskforce Members

Proposed Bylaws Revision Regarding Standing Committees

“Alignment of Iowa’s Employment Initiatives with Employment First”

Iowa Disability and Employment Initiatives Implementation Matrix

IDEI PowerPoint presentation – Doug Keast, Iowa Workforce Development

Map: Six Employment Project Sites for the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment and the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Project

**Taskforce Members Present:** Alexandra Bomhoff; Paula Connolly; Randy Davis; Dawn Francis; Alice Holdiman; Teri Lynn Jorgenson; Geoff Lauer; Jennie Salvato; Rick Shannon; Bruce Teague; Casey Westhoff; Janie Woodhouse

**Members Present by Phone:** Carrie England; Linda Moore; Teresa Robinson; Connie Smith; Ingrid Wensel

**State Agency Representatives Present:** Theresa Armstrong (DHS - MHDS); Diane Blackburn (Veterans Home); Lonnie Cleland (IDPH); Becky Criswell (IDB); Karin Ford (IDPH); Don Grove (ICRC); Molly Hammer (DoE); Sandy Hertado-Peters (DAS); Doug Keast (IWD); Terri Rosonke (IFA); Joe Sample (IDA); Anne Turcotte (DOT). **By Phone:** Donna Grgurich (EDA); Deb Johnson (DHS - IME), Ljerka Vasiljevic (DPS)

**Staff:** Terry Cunningham; Becky Flores; Liz O’Hara

**Guests:** Bob Bacon, Teresa Bomhoff, Connie Fanselow (by phone); Kennan Highly (by phone); Joyce Wheeler

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Taskforce Chair Geoff Lauer opened the meeting at 10:08. A quorum was declared. After those present introduced themselves, Geoff read the mission of the Taskforce from the bylaws.

## **II. Agenda**

Geoff noted that a new action item has been put under the Executive Committee's report, regarding comments on the Economic Development Authority's 2013 Action Plan for Community Development Block Grants. Dawn Francis moved to approve the revised agenda. Randy Davis supported the motion. Motion carried.

## **III. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting – September 14, 2012**

Ann Turcotte noted that she was not present as indicated in error in the minutes. Dawn moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting with the correction in the attendance list. Randy supported the motion. Motion carried.

## **IV. Executive Committee Report**

Dawn said that an action item needs to be added to today's agenda, to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee at the October 10<sup>th</sup> teleconference to seek organizational endorsements to the Taskforce's position statement on direct care workforce development and credentialing. Carrie England moved to ratify the decision to seek organizational endorsements to the position statement. Randy supported the motion. Motion carried.

A. Update on advocacy for Medicaid expansion – Taskforce members received a copy of the communication from Michael Busselot of the Executive Office, responding to the letter from Geoff on behalf of the Taskforce urging the Governor's support for expansion of Medicaid as allowed under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mr. Busselot reaffirmed the Governor's opposition. Geoff stated that now that the 2012 Election is over and it is clear that the ACA will remain in place, many advocates hope the Governor will reconsider. Geoff noted that Iowa also has not developed a Health Care Exchange as required by act, nor an Essential Benefits Package. In other states advocates and insurance companies have worked together to identify benefits. This could be very important for people with disabilities or mental illness, and consumer and family involvement will be needed. Teresa Bomhoff noted that the expanded Medicaid program also requires decisions about the benefits to be included—advocates need to be watching both developments. If Iowa does not develop an Exchange, the federal government will develop one for the state. Iowa has nine days to commit to develop one or cede that responsibility. Senator Hatch has informed constituents he believes the deadline will be missed, although there may be accommodations for states who decide later to develop their own Exchanges.

B. Update on advocacy on *M.R. vs Dreyfus* (Washington state) – Washington Governor Christine Gregoire roused advocates nationally to action when she attempted to cut home and community based services to people with disabilities, a move which was blocked by the Courts. Hundreds if not thousands of communications from advocates, including one sent by Geoff on behalf of the Taskforce, asked her not to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. Taskforce members received a copy of her announcement that she had decided not to appeal, although Dawn suggested that this issue may reappear in the future.

C. Update on direct support workforce development issues – Dawn reported that she is getting organizational endorsements of the Taskforce position statement on training and credentialing of direct support workers. Geoff and Dawn met with staff from the Department of Public Health and from the State Public Policy Group to discuss the issues the Taskforce has with the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council recommendations and the legislation the Council supported last year, and came out of the meeting with serious concerns. Geoff wants to study last year's bill before asking other organizations to sign on to the Taskforce position statement, and give the Council and SPPG an opportunity to respond to very specific questions, and even some clear demands. They stated their desire for the Taskforce's support, or at least its neutrality, but Geoff expressed some frustration over confusing statements about their position.

Geoff said the issue is important for people with disabilities for many reasons. For example, the credentialing process could pose barriers for people with ID who are otherwise capable of providing direct support. It is not clear how the College of Direct Support, which is favored by providers, will be incorporated into the training and credentialing system. The fact that individuals must be trained and credentialed before starting work is another hardship for providers and individuals.

Teresa commented that the redesign Workforce Workgroup apparently will not address direct support workers this year, but only issues related to the licensed professions. She spoke directly to IDPH Director Mariannette Miller-Meeks about the Taskforce's position statement, and provided her with a copy. Teresa recommended that this issue be included in a set of joint MHDS Commission/Mental Health Planning Council/Olmstead Taskforce legislative priorities. A statement of joint priorities should be developed soon. The Council meets on 11/28 and the Commission on 12/6. Dawn and Casey expressed willingness to work on this.

IDPH staff have sought consultation from the brain injury community in the development of a BI module. Liz O'Hara noted that Cherie Clark has been asked to consult with them on modules related to disability. Bob Bacon said this may indicate they have not looked seriously at the College of Direct Support, which has well developed modules on these topics. Two internal provider surveys about credentialing suggest that it would have a major impact on their recruitment and retention.

D. Taskforce Comments to Iowa Economic Development Authority on the EDA's 2013 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development – Liz stated that the

Housing/Transportation Committee learned that the EDA's Annual Plan, which is updated within a five year planning cycle for its federal allocation of community development block grant funds for non-metro areas in the state, calls for continued assignment of priority to support of sheltered workshops. The deadline for public comment was November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Executive Committee met on the 6<sup>th</sup> to determine if the Taskforce should take a position. The decision was made to communicate with the EDA Director about the numerous on-going initiatives by other state departments to shift employment services away from sheltered workshops and towards integrated employment opportunities, consistent with *Olmstead* principles. A letter was sent to the EDA by the deadline. The Committee also decided that the Taskforce should communicate with HUD about the need to assure that CDBG, which is an important funding sources for local services, should be used in a manner consistent with *Olmstead*. Geoff asked the Taskforce for ratification of the comments. Donna Grgurich of the EDA stated that she thought the letter would be helpful. She had just been re-appointed to the Taskforce recently and had not had an opportunity to familiarize herself with the issue. Alice Holdiman moved to ratify the comments submitted by the Taskforce regarding the EDA 2013 Action Plan, as sent. Randy supported the motion. Motion carried.

E. Olmstead Taskforce Website Update – Liz said that some obstacles had been encountered in the redesign of the website because of limitations of the software proposed for use. She said that the website redesign advisory workgroup will have to be reconvened.

F. Communication from Four Oaks regarding proposed funding for PMIC construction – Geoff asked for an opportunity to report on this additional item. He reminded the Taskforce that the Governor had responded to its request last spring to line item veto a transfer of \$1million, that had been appropriated to the Iowa Finance Authority's new Revolving Loan Fund, to a grant program to finance construction or rehabilitation of Psychiatric Medical Institutes for Children (PMICs). The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) had been established to support the development of housing specifically for hard to serve populations, including individuals currently being served out of state. The Four Oaks lobbyist contacted Geoff to ask him to visit their PMIC in Mason City, in order to learn about their program. Four Oaks would like the Taskforce's support for their efforts to secure a new appropriation this year, from sources other than the RLF. Geoff declined the invitation due to lack of time, but said if the appropriation was not to come out of funding that supports home and community based services he did not see any objection. Dawn thought that if Four Oaks is seeking to bring hard-to-serve children home from out of state, they should be supported, conditionally.

## **V. Legislative Study Committee Report**

Dawn said that the Committee would need to meet, because the strategic planning session had produced many issues for the Taskforce to pursue. She listed the following:

1. Medicaid expansion - High Priority. Dawn moved that the Taskforce take action to follow up on its letter to Governor, to continue to advocate for

- expansion of Medicaid. Randy supported the motion. Bob Bacon commented that advocates need to be concerned about whether expansion will be on the table for possible cuts, including a reduction from the 100% federal support for expanded Medicaid, as the country approaches the fiscal cliff. It is important to the credibility of the Taskforce that they share their understanding of this issue. Motion carried.
2. Direct support workforce development. Randy commented that this issue could easily be a Trojan horse—a policy initiative that looks good on the surface but has unintended consequences. Geoff asked if there were other Taskforce members that would like to take part in discussions of this issue. Randy and Terry Cunningham volunteered. Dawn said Paula Connolly was likely to be interested as well.
  3. Monitoring redesign. Dawn said the Taskforce will need to take up as an action item a letter urging full funding of the Transition Fund. Teresa stated that this is critical to the support of counties that are on the verge of massive cuts in services. Dawn moved that the Executive Committee be charged with drafting a letter to the Legislature urging full funding of the Transition Fund. Alice Holdiman supported the motion. Becky Flores commented that the deadline for Transition Fund applications by counties has passed, and she believes 29 counties applied. Teresa said this bill needs to be the first to come out of the Legislature in January. Motion carried. Dawn said she will be reviewing materials on other redesign issues and will pull together a position statement. Teresa said there are four elements of system funding that need attention: the Transition Fund; the property tax equalization fund (with the question of whether the \$47.28 per person levy should be a floor or a ceiling; Medicaid expansion; and addressing the current gap in Medicaid funding.
  4. EDA Community Development Block Grant funding for sheltered workshops. Dawn said that while we do not know at this point if the EDA will alter its list of priorities for CDBG funding this year, we need to revisit the issue when next year's Action Plan is put out for comment. A letter should also be sent to HUD informing them that this is another program where their policies may not be synchronous with those of CMS.
  5. HCBS Waiver Rent Subsidy Program funding. For FY 2012, funding was cut from \$700,000 to \$658,000. It is a popular program, and IFA was forced to stop taking applications in February. Rental assistance is critically important to MFP participants. A letter needs to be sent to the Legislature.
  6. Advocacy to raise LPHA awareness of/responsiveness to Olmstead principles in their dealings with people with disabilities. This will be referred to the Housing/Transportation Committee to work on.
  7. Gas pump accessibility. Dawn said she is working on this issue with Terry Cunningham, Mitch Swanson, Gary McDermott and Jade Henry. A strategy will be developed at a meeting in the next couple of weeks. Terry reported that while all HyVee gas stations came into ADA compliance two years ago, other gas stations have not. He is unable to insert his credit card or use the pump, and if the Help button is too high for him to reach, he can't call for help.

- The National Association of Convenience Stores hired a company to train its members on requirements for accessibility, but chains like Casey have not complied. The team wants to survey each station, take photos, and file complaints as appropriate. It is not necessary to have a disability to do this. Complaints can be filed with the US Department of Justice. Terry has the forms to do so. Geoff said they should be put on the Taskforce website.
8. Health Insurance Exchange. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
  9. Iowa Finance Authority Revolving Loan Fund. Dawn stated that the Taskforce should keep a watchful eye on the funds appropriated to the RLF.
  10. Open access to medications under Medicaid. Teresa Bomhoff stated that the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutic (P and T) Committee charged with review of the Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL) is about to implement new requirements making it more difficult for people with mental illness to get certain psychotropic drugs, even if these work the best for them. Under a new “fail first” policy, two generic drugs have to be found ineffective before a brand name can be prescribed. A brand name on the PDL must be tried first, before one that is not on the PDL. This is a major issue for NAMI and the Epilepsy Foundation. Teresa stated that she believes the Committee fails to see the connection between these kinds of barriers and the adverse reactions people have through drug treatment. In addition, not enough concern is raised over the roughly 35 minutes per drug that it takes a prescriber to fill out a request for prior authorization of a drug not on the PDL.

Current members of the Legislative Study Committee are Dawn, Casey, Rik and Randy. Alexandra would also like to serve. Dawn said she will collaborate with Teresa Bomhoff.

## **VI. Nominations Committee Report**

Carrie presented the draft 2013 Olmstead Taskforce Membership Application form. It is very similar to last year's, but asks for a little more detail to help with efforts to get a diverse age range and to meet bylaws membership requirements. Alice recommended that applicants be given more ways to apply than just electronically. Dawn said that screen readers don't read pdfs, so the application should be available in Word, and not in Times New Roman font, which is difficult for some people to read. The deadline for applications will be January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Nominations Committee is looking for new members. Dawn expressed the thanks of the Taskforce to Carrie and the Committee.

## **VII. Housing/Transportation Committee Report**

Teresa Robinson and Bruce Teague are the only voting Taskforce members who serve on the Committee, and they each reported that they have a steep learning curve. Liz stated that the Committee had reviewed the new provisions in the IFA Qualified Allocation Plan that create incentives for developers to submit applications that support Olmstead compliance in various ways. Teresa said that the Linn County Transportation Advisory Group has established a website called 365Ride.org, to provide a coordinated

response to people in the community with transportation needs. The Committee needs more members. Donna Grgurich and Terry Cunningham would like to serve on it. Dawn said that the Committee should look at the grant that the Department of Transportation has received to improve transportation for veterans. She asked Ann Turcotte to provide information on the grant.

### **VIII. Report of the Ad Hoc Workgroup on Bylaws Revision**

- A. Action Item: Proposed Revision Regarding Term Limits for Taskforce Members – Third Reading. Alice Holdiman, temporary Chair of the Workgroup, brought two action items forward. She conducted the third reading of the proposed bylaws amendment limiting terms of Olmstead Taskforce members, and noted that the bylaws could now be adopted if the Taskforce chose. Alexandra asked when applications can be filled out, and Geoff responded that this can be done any time, and that they will be held for consideration. Alice moved that the amendment on Board term limits be adopted. Alexandra supported the motion. Motion carried.
- B. Recommendations regarding Strategic Planning Committee. Alice reported that the Executive Committee had asked the Workgroup to look at the bylaw provisions on standing committees. The Taskforce has had five for some time, and some are no longer functional. The question is whether the Taskforce should have more flexibility to set up and disband committees from year to year. The Executive Committee suggested that only the Executive and Nominations Committee should be standing committees. The Workgroup considered the matter and concluded that there should be a Strategic Planning standing committee as well, which would be in charge of monitoring the adherence of the Taskforce to its mission over the long term and make recommendations to strengthen the Taskforce's ability to carry out that mission. Alice noted that while the Strategic Planning Committee has been inactive recently, it did provide substantial input into the DHS State Plan for Mental Health and Disability Services.
- C. Action Item: Proposed Revision Regarding Standing Committees – First Reading. Alice then conducted the first reading of the proposed bylaws amendment limiting standing committees to the Executive, Nominations, and Strategic Planning Committees, providing for the annual establishment of other committees as needed to accomplish the work of the Taskforce, and for the establishment of ad hoc workgroups to deal with short term needs such as bylaw revision or events planning. Geoff commented that when a "standing committee" is not holding meetings, the Taskforce is in violation of its bylaws.
- D. Recommendations on establishment of permanent seats for selected organizations. The Workgroup had also been asked to look into the advantages and disadvantages of setting aside permanent seats for representatives of specific organizations whose missions are closely tied to that of the Taskforce

and whose participation can strengthen it. The advantage of setting aside seats for this purpose is that it assures that high profile organizations that have small staff will not be forced off the Taskforce due to term limits. The Workgroup saw several disadvantages, however. One is the difficulty in setting the criteria to determine which organizations should be permanently represented, since there are many possibilities. The Taskforce has 21 seats for voting members, and to enlarge it further could create more problems in getting a quorum. The other option would be to use existing seats for this purpose. However, the Workgroup felt that a premium should be placed on getting the right individuals on the Taskforce, who have commitment to Olmstead principles and the work of the Taskforce. Organizations that currently happen to have staff who are excellent Taskforce members may evolve over time to become less committed, yet the Taskforce would have to have a seat for them. Because Taskforce meetings are open, and because members whose second consecutive terms expire need only wait a year to apply again, the Workgroup recommended against setting seats aside for specific organizations.

## **IX. MHDS/Redesign Update**

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief, provided an update on redesign planning and implementation. It appears that Iowa will have between twelve and fourteen regions, consisting of anywhere from one to eighteen counties. Two counties are considering applying for waivers from the regionalization requirement. Thirty-one counties have now applied for the Transition Fund (deadline of 11/1) to get funding assistance to maintain services for the current fiscal year. Under rules for the Fund, they must demonstrate sustainability of these services in future years. DHS must submit a report to the Legislature with a recommended funding level by 12/1.

Most workgroups are completing their work, with reports due to the Legislature between 12/1 and 12/14. One exception is the Workforce Workgroup being managed by the Iowa Department of Public Health, which will submit an interim report this December and a final report next December. All workgroups post materials on the DHS Redesign website.

SF 2315 charged the Department of Human Rights to establish a workgroup to evaluate the need for mental health courts. The workgroup met several times, looked at national research on such courts and other jail diversion programs as well as internal reports on Iowa's existing mental health courts.

Director Palmer will be setting up a workgroup to look at issues related to Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) from the standpoint of how to achieve community integration that complies with *Olmstead*. RCFs may need technical assistance in transitioning their business. There will also be a continuum of care workgroup to help define core services.

Now that the 2012 Election is over, the Interim Legislative Committee will meet, probably between Thanksgiving and Christmas, to prepare a list of what has to be addressed legislatively in the next Session, such as property tax equalization and the Transition Fund.

There are a number of rules being drafted to cover formation of regions, subacute and crisis service (which will probably be enforced by the Department of Inspections and Appeals). DHS is working with its redesign facilitators to look at similar rules in other states.

Teresa Bomhoff commented that some workgroups seem very reluctant to open up to issues beyond their specific charge even if they really have to be dealt with. For example, the Judicial Workgroup can develop sound recommendations to improve the committal process unless it deals with the shortage of acute care beds. The Workforce Workgroup is only dealing with the licensed professions, even though there are major issues in the direct support and peer support workforce.

Geoff asked if SF 2315 requires counties to pool their funds in a regional system. Theresa said it does not. Teresa Bomhoff said that the Transition Committee will recommend that the Legislature require pooling.

Theresa Armstrong commented that some counties were going to face fiscal problems with or without redesign, and even with the state taking over the non-federal share of Medicaid. Providers are also anxious, in some cases wondering if the services they offer are in compliance with *Olmstead* principles, and in some cases wondering whether property tax equalization will result in enough funding for their services.

## **X. Olmstead Plan Implementation Update**

Theresa stated that while the DHS State Olmstead Plan doesn't specifically include "redesign," the redesign that has been underway helps to achieve many Olmstead Plan objectives. Examples include:

- Goal 1: Welcoming Communities – A priority under this goal was to involve people with disabilities and mental illness in policy making. Redesign workgroups included representation of people with disabilities/MI. The DHS Director and MHDS Administrator meet regularly with disability and mental health advocates for an open discussion of concerns.
- Goal 2: Increased Access to Information and Supports - Single entry points are being built into the redesigned system, with standardized information about service options, standardized eligibility processes, and options counselors/system navigators to help people access services.
- Goal 3: A Full Array of Community Based Services and Supports – Money Follows the Person has been extended to FY 2016, which means that funds will be available for several years after that date. The Iowa Finance Authority is working with IME to identify community housing options for MFP participants. Competitive employment options are a priority area under this goal, and there are

numerous state agency initiatives underway to transition from facility-based employment services to services leading to integrated employment. Another set of initiatives promote integration and coordination of primary care, mental health and substance abuse services and community supports. Work is under way on IME's health home initiative, which will focus on Medicaid members with mental illness and/or chronic conditions as well as children with SED. A health home is being established in Blackhawk County, and IME is working on such questions as the role of targeted case managers in supporting individuals served by the health home, as Medicaid cannot reimburse for the coordination functions of both. Magellan is working with IME on a State Plan Amendment to develop health homes for people with severe and persistent mental illness. Approval of the health home initiative to support a system of care for children with SED is expected in mid 2013.

- Goal 4: High Quality Services and Supports – SF 2315 mandates that community providers develop co-occurring capabilities. Regions are to develop services that are evidence based, such as trauma informed care, as resources become available. The College of Direct Support, offered to community providers to build the capacity of the direct support workforce, will now be administered by the Iowa Association of Community Providers.
- Goal 5: Performance and Accountability – The Redesign Outcomes Work Group is identifying the outcomes to be measured in the redesigned service system. A priority under this goal is also to develop a plan for long term system financing, and SF 2315 took important steps in this direction. Counties are no longer responsible for the non-federal share of Medicaid, and local property tax revenues can be devoted to non-Medicaid services. Some funding issues remain to be addressed but property tax equalization is intended to move Iowa counties towards greater equity.

Geoff commented that the Outcomes Workgroup was successful in creating *Olmstead*-based domains, but could not complete work on the measures. In order to make sure that the Olmstead Plan is infused into redesign, people with disabilities and their family members should be at the table when measures are developed, and these should be focused specifically on Iowa issues, even if they have been found valid and reliable elsewhere. Geoff said that there also needs to be decisions about who does what, by when, and how. He recognized that the MHDS Division is very busy, but the Olmstead Plan still should be a focus, rather than something that happens to be implemented through other state actions. Theresa responded that the work of DHS is based on the expectations of Olmstead.

## **XI. Update on Iowa Initiatives to Promote Integrated Employment**

Bob Bacon distributed a handout entitled "Alignment of Iowa's Employment Initiatives with Employment First," a crosswalk of seven different agency programs or initiatives and their relationship to four Employment First goals: alignment of policies and funding and partnerships to remove barriers; individual and family advocacy and participation in service system design; peer action by businesses to promote hiring of people with

disabilities, and best practices driving transition outcomes for living, working and learning. The crosswalk also shows the linkage between the four goals and the DHS State Olmstead Plan. Bob stated that it is important to incentivize the results desired, from employers and providers.

Doug Keast presented a power point on the Iowa State Workforce Development Board's Disability Employment Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to make sure the employment service system serves people with disabilities equally well as it serves the general population, i.e., ensuring that the one step centers not just refer people with disabilities to agencies serving that population, but building their capability to be responsive. The initiative builds on a foundation of Iowa's collaborative efforts and several important grants. SSA Benefits Planning has made a difference, and IME is looking at the possibility of paying for it. Ticket to Work might also support it in the future. A number of strategies will strengthen the Regional Workforce Investment Boards, e.g., through inclusion of a "disability subject matter expert," enhanced partnerships, etc.

Doug identified key players as the state agency partners, the Workforce Investment Boards, local leadership teams, the disability expert, and people with disabilities. There will be five pilot regions (Waterloo, Burlington, Spencer, Des Moines and Sioux City) that develop local teams and build partnerships, with state and national technical assistance. Focus groups with job seekers will be held. The project will include innovative practices and flexible funding.

## **XII State Agency Reports**

Department on Aging – Joe Sample reported that the new service areas for the area agencies on aging will be announced on November 15<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the minutes of the September Taskforce meeting showed that an IDA staff person had reported the department had not been successful in securing a large grant to support development of Aging and Disability Resource Centers across Iowa, and that there had been a question about the consequences for redesign. Joe said that nothing has changed with respect to the role of ADRCs in the redesigned mental health and disability services system. Reimbursement models for options counseling will be explored over the next year. He also reported that the department was beginning implementation of its three-year Lifespan Respite grant, and that the first meeting had been held.

Iowa Finance Authority – Terri Rosonke provided more information on the HCBS Waiver Rent Subsidy Program. New applications are no longer being taken, already this fiscal year. A little over 300 people are currently being served at an average cost of \$150 per month, or a total of \$45,600 per month. The appropriations were cut last year from \$700,000 to \$658,000, or by an amount less than one month's expenditures. Consequently, if the cuts are restored, new applications still could not be taken. No waiting list is being maintained, so the unmet demand cannot be tracked. Dawn Francis moved that the Iowa Finance Authority be asked in writing to establish and maintain waiting lists for the HCBS Waiver Rent Subsidy Program. Randy Davis supported the

motion. However, in the absence of a quorum, the Executive Committee be authorized to take action and request endorsement in January. Terri said that she would check with IFA staff to see if they were willing to start a list voluntarily.

Terri also reported that IFA has received 35 requests for approval of a proposed lead service provider by applicant developers under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, and that she expected most of the proposals would be for housing projects to serve the Frail Elderly and people with disabilities. Final applications are due 12/15.

The IFA Revolving Loan Fund is in operation. There is a two step process to apply—first, a request to approve the service plan, and then the loan application itself. There have been expressions of interest by developers but no service plan submissions yet. Funds can be carried over from one fiscal year to the next.

Department of Education – Molly Hammer reported that redesign of the Department is complete, and there are four bureaus: Educational Quality, Learner Strategies and Support, Standards and Curriculum, and Data and Fiscal Management. Molly stated that there is no single office responsible for students with disabilities—responsibilities are diffused throughout the four bureaus. At the community level, the area education agencies provide supports. The department is focusing on student outcomes, beginning in the third grade. One fourth of all fourth graders in Iowa are not proficient in reading. Because Iowa did not succeed in securing legislative reforms, it was not able to apply for funding under No Child Left Behind. Geoff asked where the Taskforce should go for information on education and disability issues. Molly stated that inter-bureau workgroups, such as one on children with special needs, have been in operation for a couple of months.

Geoff said the Taskforce should send a letter to the department to ask what goals, objectives and outcomes it is setting for children with disabilities. Molly stated that this is a priority for the department, which is also focusing on achievement gaps, and ensuring that all students are college-ready at graduation. Students with disabilities have a larger achievement gap than any other population. Data should be available to track outcomes. Becky Flores commented that the Parent Educator Connection (PEC) could be helpful as an information source. Every area education agency has a PEC, which brings parents and teachers together to work on mutual interests related to children with disabilities. Teresa Bomhoff asked how the department would respond to a training proposal by NAMI, which is frequently contacted to provide training to various entities. Molly stated that the department has a mental health specialist on staff. She expressed doubt that the department had the capacity to arrange mental health training for all teachers in the state. Teresa said that she nevertheless has heard many teachers express the need for more information on how to deal with mental issues, which suggest that this training might help address the achievement gap. Geoff said he would welcome the Director to a Taskforce meeting to discuss disability issues.

Department of Transportation – Ann Turcotte reported that IDOT has until recently subsidized transportation to health appointments for IowaCare participants down to the

level of one dollar per ride. However, demand for assistance was so high that the funds available for subsidies were quickly used up. Funding at the \$50,000 level was made available in April of this year, and \$38,000 was spent on over 300 rides by June. A 20% local match from transit authorities is now required, which not all transit authorities can afford. Moreover, the subsidy per ride is not as deep. In response to a question, Ann said that she would get information on the transportation grant IDOT received to serve Iowa veterans. Joe Sample said that the funds can be used to develop an online tool. This “rideshare software” can actually be used by many different groups.

### **XIII. Taskforce Member Reports**

There were no reports.

### **XIV. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Geoff asked the Nominations Committee to consider individuals deserving of an award by the Taskforce, once it has completed its work on member recruitment. Carrie agreed to take this on.

The next Olmstead Consumer Taskforce meeting will be on January 11, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00.