

# OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MINUTES

*Friday March 9th, 2012, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm*

*Urbandale Public Library Meeting Room A*

## **E-Mails and Handouts**

- Agenda
- Minutes of Previous Meeting (January 13, 2012)
- Report/Recommendations of the Nominations Committee
- Instructions for Expense Reimbursements for Taskforce Members; Required Forms
- Iowa Disability Advocates Network Position Paper on MHDS System Redesign
- Iowa Employment Projects: Iowa's Work on Integrated Employment
- DHS Summary of Employment Initiatives for Persons with Disabilities (2/2/12)
- Flyers on Upcoming Self Employment Training and Use of Federal Work Incentives
- DVD on Disability Employment Success Stories
- Senate Study Bill 3078, Authorizing Establishment of a Board of Direct Care Professionals
- OCTF Letter (January 2012) Supporting Redesign Work Group Recommendations on Workforce Development

**Members attending in person:** Paula Connolly, Randy Davis, Dawn Francis, Ray Gerke, Geoff Lauer, Jerry Mayes, Jim Paprocki, Rik Shannon, Janie Woodhouse, Casey Westhoff **By phone:** Carrie England, Alice Holdiman, Doug Sample, Ingrid Wensel

**State Agency Representatives attending in person:** Theresa Armstrong (DHS – MHDS), Rhonda Bennett (DIA), Diane Blackburn (Iowa Veterans Home), Michael Bousset (Governor's Office), Patrick Clancy (Regents), Deb Johnson (DHS – IME), Jean Johnson (IEDA), Doug Keast (IWD), David Mitchell (IVRS), Chuck Palmer (DHS Director), Susie Paulson (Workforce Development), Teri Rosonke (IFA), Joe Sample (IDA), Jana Smith (DIA), Anne Turcotte (DOT), Ljerka Vasiljevic (Public Safety), Kris Weitzel (DOC)

**Staff:** Bob Bacon, Terry Cunningham, Connie Fanselow, Becky Flores, Liz O'Hara, Ann Riley

**Guests:** Emily Brant (CDD), Jackie Dickman (Parent), Jean Herrity (DRI), Angie O'Brien (Statewide Mobility Manager), Craig Hanner and Jeremy Miller, regional mobility managers, Jule Reynolds (Senator Harken's office).

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

A quorum was declared. The agenda was approved, with a rearrangement to accommodate presenter schedules. Geoff Lauer briefly reviewed the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce mission to raise awareness of, advocate for, and monitor compliance with the principles of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision. This year, the Taskforce's priorities are in the area of accessible and affordable housing,

integrated employment for people with disabilities, and development and training of the direct care workforce. The Taskforce may deal with other issues, but the above priorities will be the principal focus for this year.

Geoff welcomed DHS Director Palmer and Michael Boussetot from the Governor's Office, and expressed the hope that they could affirm to state agencies the importance of engagement with *Olmstead* issues and the Taskforce.

## **II. Remarks by Michael Boussetot (Governor's Office) and DHS Director Church Palmer**

Chuck Palmer introduced Mr. Boussetot and confirmed he will be attending Taskforce meetings to become familiar with its activities and keep the Governor and his staff informed about its work. He wants to review the current level of state agency involvement in *Olmstead* and look for ways to increase it. Director Palmer then gave a brief update on mental health and disability services redesign legislation. The Senate is considering a bill which is anticipated to pass this coming week. A similar bill in the House has not been finalized. Redesign legislation is built on *Olmstead* principles and reflects redesign workgroup recommendations from last fall. Director Palmer paid tribute to the work of the Taskforce in laying the foundation for redesign through its work on the DHS State *Olmstead* Plan. There has been and continues to be strong consumer and advocate involvement—much greater than in the past.

Director Palmer stated that of the \$1.3 billion currently spent on services, 75% comes from Medicaid. County funds account for 10% of expenditures. The plan under discussion has been that the counties' responsibility for the non-federal share of Medicaid is to be taken over by the state, and that the counties' responsibility for non-Medicaid services would remain. Director Palmer acknowledged both department and legislative interest in adding BI services as part of regional management plans depending on availability of funding. The same would apply to services for people with developmental disabilities other than ID. DHS predicts adding people with DD, including people on the autism spectrum, to the ID waiver would double the current budget needed for services.

Presentation of Plaque Honoring Jerry Mayes - The Director noted that he had had an opportunity to work with Jerry Mayes on promotion of *Olmstead* principles, and that he appreciated his consistent positive attitudes. He thanked Jerry for his work. Jerry Mayes stated that he would be resigning, and that this would be the last Taskforce meeting he would be able to attend due to medical conditions. Dawn Francis then shared a brief history of Jerry's significant work advocating for disability services. On behalf of the Taskforce, she presented Jerry with a plaque for his outstanding leadership. Geoff Lauer expressed the thanks of the Taskforce for his leadership, time and commitment.

Michael Boussetot began his presentation by recognizing Director Palmer's strong leadership and his desire to create a system that provides supports and services needed people with disabilities in Iowa. The 936,000 Iowans served by DHS include the most vulnerable groups. One of Governor Branstad's first phone calls after winning the election was to Chuck Palmer, who had earned the Governor's full confidence in his first term. Mr. Boussetot stated that as an attorney he understands the significance of

the Olmstead decision, and the DHS State Olmstead Plan will form the basis of the Governor's efforts to modernize the state's service system and ensure consistency and accountability.

Every dollar of public funds is precious; Iowa needs to create a more efficient service system as well as increase overall funding for services. Efficient systems can result in more services for more people. Although advocates have not always been the loudest voice at the Capitol, the Governor is supportive of what they and Director Palmer have proposed for redesign. The Governor's Office has also been working with Di Findley on enhancing the direct care workforce and also recognizes the need to build employment opportunities for all Iowans, including people with disabilities. Mr. Boussetot noted that Iowa's demographics are changing: right now we have one county with more people over age 65 than there are children under the age of 16, but by 2040 more than 60 counties will have that characteristic. Iowa is the only state in the nation that has not grown by at least 50 percent from its 1900 census. This means we need to work hard to create jobs, build the tax base and strengthen education. In a more efficient system, the public sector will take less off the top and put a greater share of resources into services, such as services for the 946,000 DHS clients.

Dawn Francis thanked Director Palmer and Governor Branstad for their commitment to the redesign effort. She stated that Olmstead Taskforce members served on several workgroups and that the Taskforce has supported final recommendations. The Taskforce and two dozen other disability organizations signed onto the position statement of the Iowa Disability Advocates Network in support of the redesign. However, adequate funding is a top concern for many advocates as the redesign process moves forward, particularly with respect to the proposed substitution of state funding for local property taxes. Many advocates do not believe the current level of support, let alone additional services, would be possible without maintaining current county funding. Dawn encouraged Director Palmer and the Governor's Office to figure out how to sufficiently fund the new proposed system.

Jerry expressed appreciation for the designation of a representative from the Governor's Office to the Taskforce, for which he has long advocated. He asked Director Palmer to speak to concerns about specialty education settings in current education legislation, e.g., the future of the school at Woodward Resource Center. Director Palmer responded that the issue arose because the Department of Education may not have sufficient funds to support all currently funded alternative education programs such as the Woodward school or those on various campuses (such as PMICs or the Juvenile Home in Toledo). Educational services must continue, but Iowa will have to consider the option of converting these schools to state facilities. DHS is having discussions with DOE to identify ways to fund these specialized education settings.

Geoff acknowledged he understands efficiencies are needed but the concerns about limited resources cannot justify keeping people in segregated settings. He asked if the Governor had that understanding. Michael Boussetot answered the proof of the Governor's commitment to services for more people will be seen in what he does, not just in what he says he will do. Last year there was a funding gap of \$545 million due to the past use of one time funding sources. The Governor refused to tap one time sources even if it meant increasing expenditures in order to ensure services to vulnerable Iowans. The

Governor's budget fully funded Medicaid, and Medicaid funding will be increased in 2013 rather than holding it to the status quo levels proposed for other state agencies. The Governor realizes HCBS and supports are a bargain compared to \$31,000 for incarceration and sometimes over \$200,000 per year for institutionalization.

Bob Bacon thanked Michael Boussetot for sharing these statistics, and expressed support for Director Palmer's commitment to engaging state agencies in *Olmstead* issues. It will take such collaboration to get Iowa "unstuck" from older service models. Bob encouraged Mr. Boussetot to attend the afternoon sessions of Taskforce meetings when state agency representatives report what their agencies are doing to address barriers to community living for people with disabilities. Some agency reps come to meetings not understanding how their agencies are even potentially involved in issues, but reach a much better understanding after participating in the dialogue.

Doug Sample asked Director Palmer why the budgets for state institutions do not appear to be reduced when the number of residents declines each year. Director Palmer responded that fixed costs associated with the buildings, grounds and staffing requirements results in the per person cost rising as the census reduces. The population at each facility is going down (by approximately 15 residents per year) as is length of stay. He assured the Taskforce that the directors at both Resource Centers are committed to expanding ways to support individuals in the community. DHS is focused on building community alternatives, not reducing funding for state facilities, where individuals will still go for short term, intensive, stabilization services. In the future, campus settings will have to look at how to effectively utilize their existing building with community partners to become more cost effective. He stressed that long waiting lists are the biggest problem the state facilities are currently facing. Many people are requesting short term assistance and stabilization services at state facilities and it may take over a year to reach the top of the waiting list. One individual with autism has been inappropriately housed in a hospital psychiatric ward for close to six months because community providers could not support him in their programs. That individual will be entering Woodward for intensive evaluation and stabilization services soon, and a *Des Moines Register* reporter will be following that individual through his move and stabilization process.

Paula Connolly suggested Director Palmer consider encouraging this reporter to find someone living successfully in the community to share their story. The Director mentioned that he has worked with the reporter before and finds him balanced and fair. He encouraged the Taskforce to contact him with Paula's suggestion.

Jim Paprocki shared with those present that his son is the person written about in the *Register*. His son was discharged from an ICF/MR after he entered a mental health facility for short term interventions, and then spent 175 days there because the ICF/MR provider would not readmit him. Director Palmer emphasized this is a perfect example of why the length of stay at the Resource Centers needs to be reduced and community alternatives such as subacute and stepdown facilities need to be enhanced. There is a resident at Glenwood close to 100 years old that has lived in the Resource Centers all his life. Such individuals will not be expected to move back to the community, but people entering the Centers

now will receive time-limited services needed to stabilize them, and prepare them to return to their local communities.

Director Palmer and Mr. Boussetot left the meeting.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meetings – November 11, 2011 and January 16, 2012**

The November 11, 2011 minutes were reviewed. Becky Flores noted that they needed to be amended to reflect that Binnie La Hew was present. **Dawn Francis moved to approve the minutes of 11/11/11 as amended. Jerry Mayes supported the motion. The motion carried.**

**Janie Woodhouse moved to approve the January 13, 2012 minutes. Jerry Mayes supported the motion. Motion carried.**

### **IV. Nominations Committee Report**

Geoff noted that Nominations Committee Chair Carrie England had done an outstanding job leading the Committee through review of applications and development of recommendations for appointment to the Taskforce. Carrier reported on the notifications received by the Nominations Committee from current members seeking another term on the Taskforce: Paula Connolly, Carrie England, Linda Moore, and Connie Smith. Applicants apparently did not realize they were being asked to submit formal applications, to be reviewed along with those of other candidates. This will be a formal requirement in the future, but the Committee has decided to recommend the reappointment of all these individuals for another term. Steve Garrison has resigned from Disability Rights Iowa to take a new position and has resigned from the Taskforce. Jerri Sloan and Jerry Mayes have also resigned. Ben Brandenburg and Janice Hoffman have not responded to staff attempts to contact them and are presumed to have no interest in reapplying. These five seats are thus open, along with two seats which have gone unfilled.

Carrie England reported that the Taskforce received 18 applications to fill seven positions, of which 15 came in prior to the deadline. (The remainder will be held for consideration in the future.) The Committee used a number of factors to assess the candidates, including the required composition of the Taskforce contained in the bylaws, personal experience with disability, experience with and commitment to systems advocacy, and the desirability of ethnic and cultural diversity on the Taskforce. The seven candidates recommended were:

- Bruce Teague, Iowa City – “Other” (Provider)
- Teri Lynn Jorgensen, Waterloo – Person with a disability
- Amelia Marchant, Des Moines – Person with a disability
- Teresa Robinson, Cedar Rapids – Mother of a child with a disability
- Alexandra Bomhoff, Des Moines – Person with a disability
- Mark Block, Ankeny – Person with co-occurring disabilities

- Genevieve Salvato, Des Moines – Person with a disability

Three alternate candidates were also offered. Jim Paprocki noted that several members who resigned have unexpired terms. He suggested the Nominating Committee be charged with responsibility for assigning term lengths to the new candidates, and that the slate be brought to the next Taskforce meeting for approval. **Jerry Mayes moved that the Nominating Committee be charged with assigning term lengths to new Board members, and that the slate of members with terms be brought back to the Taskforce for approval. Randy Davis Supported the motion. Motion carried. Dawn Francis moved to accept the slate of current and new members recommended by the Nominations Committee. Randy Davis supported the motion.** Two Taskforce members expressed opposition to one or more candidates. Geoff Lauer stated that the Taskforce ideally represents diverse points of view. Alice Holdiman stated that we need to continue to work towards more demographic balance on the Taskforce—the slate seems weighted towards urban areas. Jerry called for the question. **The motion to accept the roster carried by a vote of 10 to 3, with Doug Sample abstaining.**

#### **V. Election of Officers**

Carrie England introduced a proposed slate of officers and suggested it will be voted on using a written ballot.

Chair: Geoff Lauer

Vice Chair: Dawn Francis

Secretary: Paula Connolly

Geoff Lauer asked for a motion to accept the proposed slate. Alice Holdiman asked if other taskforce members wanted to nominate additional members.

Jim Paprocki moved to open the floor for additional office nominations. He expressed concern that all candidates for offices are working for advocacy organizations rather than being self-advocates. Jerry Mayes supported the motion, and expressed the same concern. Alice responded that Paula Connelly works for ASK Resource Center but is also a parent of a child with a disability. Geoff Lauer invited nominations. Jerry nominated Randy Davis for Chair. Randy consented to his name being placed on the ballot, but asked that the minutes reflect his personal support for Geoff Lauer. **Janie Woodhouse moved that nominations be closed. Jerry supported the motion. Motion carried. Jerry moved to accept the slate of officers as submitted by the Nominations Committee. Janie Woodhouse supported the motion. The motion carried, with Ray Gerke abstaining.**

Liz stated that a new roster will be developed. An orientation session will be offered to new members. Paula suggested that existing Taskforce members mentor new ones in a buddy system.

#### **VI. Administrative Business**

- A. Update on staff support for the Taskforce. The Center for Disabilities and Development will now be providing staff support to the Taskforce. Liz O’Hara will be the contact person, and Terry Cunningham will continue to provide staff support. Bob Bacon stated that the expertise of other CDD staff persons can also be tapped as necessary. Becky Flores will continue to provide DHS representation at OTF meetings. Geoff Lauer acknowledged Becky Flores for her years of dedicated service to the Taskforce. Realigning responsibilities will help her manage her workload, and Becky confirmed she is looking forward to the change.
- B. Change in Reimbursement Procedures. Taskforce members will now submit requests for stipends and travel reimbursements to CDD. Liz distributed information sheets and required forms, and briefly reviewed procedures. Members can call Cherie Buelow directly if they have questions, or if they wish to reserve motel rooms, at 319-356-1434. Liz will ask Cherie to provide all members with an electronic form which they may use throughout the year to seek reimbursement expenses and their stipends.
- C. Other. Geoff said he has been asked to bring up the issue of amending the bylaws to establish term limits for Taskforce members. This will be on the agenda for a future meeting.

**VII. Other Committee Reports**

- A. Legislative Study Committee.

MHDS Redesign. Dawn Francis discussed The Iowa Disability Advocates Network position paper on redesign, which is based on a paper developed by NAMI. The paper deals with a wide range of issues, but Dawn acknowledged the most significant and widespread concern is adequate funding. Bob Bacon agreed. If state money is supposed to begin replacing county funds in the redesign by 2017 it will double to cost of the proposed redesign and leave nothing left for expansion of core services or populations served. Rik Shannon confirmed there is no consensus between the House and Senate versions of the redesign bill. Dawn Francis asked if Taskforce members wanted to submit a position statement. **Because legislative decisions happen rapidly during the session, Alice Holdiman moved that the Taskforce empower the Executive Committee to develop responses on behalf of the Taskforce as necessary, consistent with *Olmstead* principles, for the duration of this legislative session. Janie Woodhouse supported the motion. Motion carried.**

Direct Care Workforce. There are references in legislation to creation of a credentialing system. The Taskforce sent a letter to the Legislature in January, but it was on other issues, such as providing incentives to providers to build staff competencies. The Legislative Study Committee would have to meet to consider action on credentialing.

Housing. A serious problem is emerging due to a conflict between HUD programs supporting housing developments that address the needs of people with disabilities, and CMS policies requiring integrated settings for individuals receiving HCBS Waiver services. The Iowa Finance

Authority and IME are trying to develop a response to the conflict. Geoff asked Terri Rosonke to provide further information during her update from IFA.

Employment. There are many positive developments in Iowa related to employment, through Employment First, the State Employment Leadership Network, a grant proposal by Vocational Rehabilitation Services, etc. Unfortunately, sheltered workshops are mentioned as a core service in the House redesign legislation. The Senate draft Redesign legislation does not mention sheltered workshops. Geoff stated that legislators need to be educated on the meaning of *Olmstead*. Senator David Johnson has made statements supporting sheltered workshops based on *Olmstead* principles—that people have the right to choose them. Geoff stated that if there are no other alternatives, there is no meaningful choice.

Casey Westhoff encouraged members to read InfoNet for a good summary of current bills and a list of community forums.

Other. Terri Rosonke provided a brief update on the development proposals submitted for the Low Income Housing Tax Credits allocated to Iowa. The Taskforce had expressed concern over the impact of the recent boarding home registration law on developers' and landlords' willingness to rent to people with disabilities. Applications have been received and IFA is in the process of reviewing them, but Terri was unable to provide any other information because of administrative restrictions on the sharing of information when proposals are being reviewed. Terri expects to report more detail at the May meeting, after funded projects are announced.

Randy Davis stated that Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) lose their certification if they do not work in long term care settings over a two year period. The law does not recognize home and community based service provision by CNAs to meet this requirement, and he hoped the pending credentialing legislation could address this. Ann Riley commented that this was not possible, as the CNA requirements are imposed at the federal level.

Bob Bacon reported on the consideration by the US Department of Labor of a rule to remove the companionship exemption for direct care workers under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. This sounds appropriate, but national advocacy organizations such as the National Council for Independent Living and ADAPT have concerns about unintended consequences. The rule would result in having to pay some direct support workers mandatory overtime if they staying in the home overnight or worked longer than an eight hour shift. This gives people who self-direct services much less flexibility. Dawn Francis agreed, saying that if the cost of direct support goes up, people will get fewer hours of service.

Dawn reported that DHS has asked for a letter of support from the Taskforce, for its application for enhanced federal Medicaid match under the Balancing Incentive Payments Program (BIPP). Geoff stated that this is appropriate since the BIPP requires grantees to strive for the goal of increasing HCBS expenditures to over 50% of all Long Term Supports and Services expenditures by September 30, 2015, and asked for a motion. **Jerry Mayes moved that the Executive**

**Committee draft and send a letter of support for the DHS application under the Balancing Incentive Payments Program. Paula Connolly supported the motion. Motion carried.**

### **VIII/XIX. MHDS Update/Redesign Update**

Theresa Armstrong provided the updates on behalf of Division Administrator Rick Shults, who was unable to attend. She began with the mental health and disability services redesign legislation. The Senate version is SF 2315 but she has been told the House has its own version. Jerry Mayes asked what happens if the legislation doesn't pass. Theresa replied that the current system would be retained, but that nothing precludes counties from forming regions within the current system. Casey Westhoff asked if people with developmental disabilities (DD) who are not eligible for any waiver would receive services under the redesigned system. Theresa said they could if the region has sufficient funding and the governing board decides to serve people with DD.

Bob Bacon asked if any compromises on system funding have been worked out. Theresa was not aware of any, and added that both the House and Senate appropriations bills are very different from the Governor's budget. Deb Johnson clarified that Medicaid services are not affected by redesign, which only deals with services currently funded by counties. Doug Sample asked if chore services such as clearing snow off the sidewalks are on the list of core services. Theresa stated that they are not, but Deb noted that regions could decide to add them as "core plus" services in the future. She also suggested working with a case manager to determine if supported community living services might cover chore services.

Other MHDS updates included:

- Children's services - MHDS has awarded Four Oaks \$160,000 to develop a system of care (SOC) in Linn and Cerro Gordo Counties. This will be the third formal children's SOC in Iowa, though there are many informal initiatives that try to use wraparound funding and other SOC features. Four Oaks will join the Community Circle of Care and Orchard Place in working with DHS to bring kids home from out of state or to identify and serve children at risk of out of state placement.
- Balancing Incentive Payments Program (BIPP) - DHS is working with CDD to develop Iowa's BIPP application for submission to CMS in April. Once the application is approved Iowa will receive a 2% higher FMAP on HCBS services, which will result in the state having more dollars to develop services defined in the redesign plan. Deb and Theresa expressed appreciation for the Taskforce's letter of support.

### **X. OCTF Priority: Employment – Presentations on Current Initiatives**

Presenters included Dave Mitchell, Director of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Lin Nibbelink, MHDS lead staff person for employment, and Sarah Renner, CDD staff person for Iowa's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG).

Dave described his application to the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). In January, when still new to his position, he learned of the federal RFP and discovered that Sarah Renner and Lin Nibbelink were also looking at it. The three collaborated over the next three weeks, which was helpful to Dave in understanding Iowa's many employment initiatives. The ODEP grant would pair Iowa with a mentor state as it works to align its policies and funding to support more competitive employment options. The work plan is not well defined at this point.

Lin is currently working on two projects. The first is an Employment Development Initiative grant for \$100,000, through the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). The project will focus on self-employment for people with disabilities or mental illness. Six employment seminars and three webinars are planned for mental health professionals to explain such federal incentives as the Ticket to Work and the PASS program, which make self-employment a real option for people. Six seminars on self-employment for people with disabilities will be supported by the MIG grant.

Iowa's Developmental Disabilities Council has also received a large grant (\$358,000 a year over five years) from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The grant will support inter-agency collaboration to improve employment options for youth with ID/DD in transition, up to age 30. At the first meeting recently, there was significant participation by community providers.

DHS has endorsed the vision of competitive employment in the general workforce as the first priority and expected outcome of employment services. This requires: reimbursement restructuring to incentivize supported employment; the development of a business model or "road map" for interested employers; the alignment of funding streams with policies; and engagement with community partners.

Sarah Renner said that a past weakness has been the failure to hear self-advocates calling for competitive employment options. She suggested the Taskforce consider adding an employment discussion to the agenda of every future meeting. She is encouraged that the Taskforce has taken employment issues as a priority. Dawn stated that the issue is cited in the IDAN position paper on redesign, and Sarah noted that the paper was quoted at the recent Employment Summit. Sarah provided every Taskforce member with a DVD containing multiple success stories of Iowans with disabilities that are working competitively.

Alice Holdiman asked that every Taskforce member be given fact sheets describing the current employment data for Iowans with disabilities, as an advocacy tool. Geoff Lauer agreed more people need to be educated about informed choice, and "choices" must be meaningful. Dawn Francis stated that some legislators understand the issues because of advocate positions, but that as a member of the ID Redesign workgroup she did not see much support from the public members attending. Paula Connolly agreed and reported that ASK Resource Center works with many parents that are fearful of setting their child up for failure by pushing "unrealistic" goals. If kids don't get employment experience in their early years, statistics show they are much less likely to work later in life. It is important to help parents understand options and the supports available to help them achieve the goals. A Department of

Education survey found that more than 90% of parents want their children to attain competitive employment, but they don't know how to help them achieve that.

### **XI. Presentation on Iowa's Mobility Management Program**

Angie O'Brien, the Statewide Mobility Manager affiliated with the Iowa Association of Regional Governments, introduced two regional mobility managers, Jeremy Johnson Miller and Craig Hanner. The Mobility Management Program is jointly funded by the Iowa Department of Transportation (using federal Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funding) and local transit or human services agencies. Angie was hired last fall to develop a network of mobility managers across the state, to assist "transportation challenged" populations in addressing barriers to community mobility, beginning with aging and disability populations. Currently of the eight regional managers they need they have hired and trained six, in the Des Moines metro area, Mason City, Dubuque, and Council Bluffs. Most states do not have statewide as well as regional managers, but Angie's position will allow Iowa to track outcomes achieved from having these services. Mobility Managers become experts on the transportation options in their community, and work with the Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation brokerage service.

Human service agencies say that public transit often doesn't work well for their clients—even when it is available, and stakeholders need to come together to discuss solutions. Each region has a Transportation Advisory Groups (TAG) and advocates are encouraged to participate, in order to raise awareness of what is needed. Sioux City and Decorah are currently advertising for their Mobility Managers, and Cedar Rapids and Creston are expected to apply for funding. Angie hopes local partnerships will allow the number of Iowa's Mobility Managers continue to grow.

Alice Holdiman mentioned the limited hours of operation in Decorah's transit and taxi services, which keeps people from taking part in evening activities or Sunday church services. Angie encouraged Taskforce members to write letters of support to DOT, legislators and local government to help raise awareness of unmet needs. She mentioned that IVRS Director Dave Mitchell sits on the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council due to the relationship between employment and transportation. She also encouraged members to attend an April 27<sup>th</sup> Mobility Matters conference at Mercy Conference Center in Des Moines.

### **XII. State Agency Reports**

Kris Weitzel from the Department of Corrections reported that training of DOC staff in mental health is on-going. NAMI has been having multiple discussions about diversion and re-entry with DOC district directors. Provisions in the redesign bill aimed at improving the knowledge of mental illness among those in law enforcement and the judicial system is expected slow the stream of offenders with mental illness into our correctional system.

Patrick Clancy from the Board of Regents reported the Department of Education continues to redesign its education services. Redesign and budget shortfalls will impact UNI this year with the closure of

special education programs and the Price Lab School. A leadership change is expected at the Iowa School for the Deaf (ISD). While the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School has moved to a different service model, deploying resources into the community, such change has not come to the ISD, and Patrick wonders if many people who are deaf or hard of hearing might prefer the current model. He realizes this has *Olmstead* implications.

Joe Sample from the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) reported the aging services redesign process continues, with the deadline for establishment of new area agencies on aging and new service areas being moved back to July 2013. An Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) model will be developed, which all area agencies will be expected to implement. Current levels of funding for existing area agencies will continue through FY2013. Joe noted that other entities such as hospitals could effectively become ADRCs, which could improve their discharge services. He also reported the department has partnered with Casey Westhoff and the Arc of Iowa to hold a Life Span Respite Summit on Feb 24. Some Taskforce members attended. The Summit allowed a variety of stakeholders to identify respite needs in Iowa. IDA plans to use this information to apply for a Life Span Respite program if the RFP is released--grants are approximately \$200,000 over a three year period. Discussions are also being held with IME about what can be done to support respite.

Terri Rosonke of the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) reported that the HCBS Rent Subsidy has already reached its maximum capacity, and after February 17th no new applications were accepted. In addition, the funds appropriated by the Legislature are expected to be exhausted before the end of the fiscal year. Fortunately, IFA has decided to use agency funds (approximately \$100,000) from other sources to cover existing participants through the end of the fiscal year to prevent them from losing their current housing. If this program is level funded for the next fiscal year as proposed by the Governor, IFA will have to reduce the number of people receiving assistance, and it may result in no new applications for part or even all of FY 2013.

Terri also reported that the new Housing Revolving Loan Fund is becoming operational. The fund will provide low interest loans for people with significant barriers to community living, who are eligible for Waiver services. Terri will send Liz more detailed information to share with Taskforce members. Deb Johnson commented that the program is intended to fill the gap for kids and adults who do not have access to safe housing because of provider reluctance to serve them. Last year a provider came forward to get financing for home modifications to address safety concerns, in order to bring individuals back who are currently being served out of state.

IFA has disbursed the last of its State Housing Trust Fund monies. IFA has never run out of money during a fiscal year before. Hope Haven in Rock Rapids and Burlington have been awarded funds to help them acquire homes for Waiver participants.

With respect to the 2012 allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), Terri noted that IFA received 46 applications. Boarding homes regulations are an issue, but Terri believes DIA is changing its advice to landlords and developers on how the regulations apply. In addition, a firm in Woodbury

County has secured an injunction halting implementation of the LIHTC program. IFA is not sure how long this delay will last, and whether it will keep applications from being processed.

There continues to be conflicting policies from CMS and HUD pertaining to integrated residential settings, which creates confusion and difficulty for IME and IFA. While HUD has promoted supportive housing developments for people with disabilities, CMS has published a proposed rule which prohibits the use of HCBS Waiver services in housing developments targeted to disability populations. Deb Johnson is trying to raise the issue with CMS. Terri and Deb consider it helpful that at least there is a good partnership at the state level. Bob Bacon volunteered Liz O'Hara to review the HUD response to President Bush's Executive Order known as the New Freedom Initiative, to identify how HUD defined an integrated living environment. Terri said that the traditional Section 811 assisted housing program model, providing both capital development and rental assistance, required that 100% of the units be reserved for people with disabilities. The new model calls for no more than 25% being for people with disabilities. There is strong lobbying to keep the older model in place, however.

Ljerka Vasiljevic from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) reported staff in the Building Codes Bureau enforces codes accessibility. Following the last Taskforce meeting, DPS engineers met with IFA construction analysts to review IFA's accessibility standards. They found that IFA codes meet or exceed DPS requirements. She also noted federal ADAAG regulations on accessibility will become the law in Iowa for public buildings on March 15. Plans are being developed to invite all state agencies to a conference this spring to share new compliance codes.

Ann Turcotte from the Department of Transportation reported that DOT recently completed its state plan for all transportation modes. The Plan is on DOT's web site under Hot Topics and will be available for comment until March 30<sup>th</sup>. DOT will be holding six community input sessions. Ann will provide the dates of the community input sessions for Liz to send out to Taskforce members.

Jean Johnson from Iowa Economic Development Authority (formerly the Department of Economic Development) reported that the Authority 2012 Action Plan for use of Community Development Block Grant funds is posted on the Authority's web site. She encouraged comment by the Taskforce. She also reported CDBG grant applications are in and awards will be made at the end of the month.

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

Doug Sample asked how people in the Medicaid for Employed Persons with Disabilities would be affected if the bill providing credentialing (and imposing training requirements) for direct care workers is passed. Dave Mitchell said he would look into the question and get back to Doug.

Becky Flores announced ADD's recent decision to discontinue funding for Family 360 Family Navigator Network trainings on September 30 this year instead of in 2015 due to Federal cuts to ADD's Projects of National Significance.

### **XIV. Public Comment:**

Dawn noted that Mitchell Swanson of the Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living has been working on the issue of accessible gas pumps. HyVee's gas stations are now accessible nationwide, and Mitch has had success with other companies, but certainly not all. Terry Cunningham will join Mitch in testing compliance at gas stations and forwarding complaints to the Department of Justice.

Bob Bacon observed a record number of rounds of applause at this meeting. He was pleased at Director Palmer's statements about the need for inter-agency participation. State agencies have been faithful participants for many years and the information shared today demonstrates the positive progress being made by state agencies in reducing barriers and creating inclusive environments. He expressed concern about the issue of funding for the redesigned service system. Dawn will try to get the Legislative Study Committee together to address the issue.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next Olmstead Consumer Taskforce meeting will be on May 11, 2012.