**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**

**March 13, 2020**

**10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Minutes**

**Taskforce Members Present:** Michael Martin, Lisa Pakkebier, Dawn Francis, Gary McDermott, Jenna Batten, Jessica Johanns, Kay Marcel, Mari Reynolds, Lisa Pakkebier, Brittney Montross, Paula Connolly, Joel Vander Molen, Daryn Richardson, Michael Martin, June Klein Bacon, Kris Graves

**Guests:**  John McCalley (Amerrigroup); Jim Pender (IDPH); Di Findley (Iowa Caregivers Association); Terri Rosonke (IFA); Pam Heagle (Managed Care Ombudsman's Program); Geoff Lauer (Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa); Connie Fanselow (DHS)

**Staff Support:** Anne Crotty

1. 10:00 **Welcome and Introductions**
2. 10:10 **Review, Additional Items, and Approval of the Agenda**

Michael motioned to approve the agenda. Brittney seconded. Motion carried.

1. 10:15 **Review, Corrections and Approval of the Minutes of the March Meeting.**

Kay motioned to approve minutes with the date correction from Renee. Paula seconded. Motion carried.

1. 10:20 **Iowa DHS Update – Connie Fanselow**

* DHS Director Kelly Kennedy Garcia was unanimously confirmed by the Iowa Senate. She hired Faith Sandberg as Senior Policy Advisor. Rick Shults’s position will be filled with two positions, an Administrator for State Facilities and an Administrator for Community-based Services. Theresa Armstrong is filling in as the Interim Administrator for Community Services.
* The US Department of Justice (DOJ) is investigating conditions at the state resource centers, with investigations focusing on community integration efforts at both facilities. DHS has mobilized a community group to make sure residents have options to be transitioned into the community as they wish and work with guardians that may be reluctant. At Glenwood, they are also investigating the adequacy of medical and nursing care, nutrition management, allegations uncontrolled research on residents, and lack of consent for participating in research from individuals and guardians. An investigation is also occurring at the state level. As of March 2020, Glenwood had 194 residents and Woodward had 130 residents, with five children under age 18 residing at the resource centers. DHS is working to place these children in the community.
* Connie provided updates on legislation. The following bills have been signed by Governor Reynolds:
* Supplemental Appropriations bill provided $21 million for flood recovery and $330,000 to Glenwood Resource Center to address issues identified in the DOJ investigation. DHS will submit monthly reports to the State Legislature.
* Bill to provide an additional $81 million in state funding for education.

Study Bills:

* The Invest in Iowa Act would provide additional state funding to MHDS regions to create equity between regions and form a stronger partnerships between regions and the State. The bills would provide an $80.6 million in funding by raising state sales tax by 1 cent and allow reductions in income tax rates.
* HF 2561 would end organ transplant discrimination against people with disabilities who can demonstrate they have the post-operative support needed for recovery.
* HF 2097 would require all state rest stations to have at least one adult changing station for travelers.
* HF 2138 would cap insulin prices to keep them affordable for people with diabetes.
* HF 2453 is related to guardianship and conservatorship of minors; HF2564 is related to guardian and conservatorship of adults.
* HF 2283 relates to changes to state boards and commissions. The bill would remove the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) member from the MHDS commission, as the position has been vacant for two years. It would also limit the Mental Health Planning Council to meeting four times per year.
* HF2222 relates to Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMDs), which refers to any facility with at least 16 beds that treats primarily people with mental illness. The bill would direct DHS to conduct a statewide study of the continuum of mental health services provided and the value of pursuing a waiver to the Medicaid rule that does not allow Medicaid funds to be used to support services in IMDs.
* HF2555 would allow counties that wish to leave their current MHDS region to form a new region.
* HF2192 would require health insurance carriers to reimburse telehealth services on the same basis and rate as services provided in person.
* SF2303 adds Occupational Therapists to the list of mental health providers, for the purpose of addressing workforce shortages.
* SF2366 would place work requirements on people receiving SNAP (food assistance) or Medicaid and would gradually phase out childcare assistance based on income.
* HF2275 would transform the Iowa Department of Public Health’s program to increase the number of Board-Certified Behavior Analysts from a grant program to a stipend program.
* HF2470 would recognize out-of-state professional licenses and determine when an individual would not be able to provide services in Iowa (e.g. criminal record), for the purpose of addressing workforce shortages.
* SF2360 relates to classroom management and procedures for reporting incidents of aggression or violence. It also would establish a grant program with funding to provide therapeutic classrooms.
* HF2521 would require schools to adopt protocols for suicide prevention.
* SF2027 would require public schools to provide contact information for Your Life Iowa and the National Suicide line on all student ID cards.
* HF2526 allows funds from special needs trusts to be transferred into an Iowa ABLE account, which would make it easier for families to use the funds.
* HF2539 provides resources for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.
* HF2585 would replace the term “deaf or hearing impaired” with “deaf or hard of hearing.”
* The Children’s State Board has been reconfigured as of July 1. They formed a metrics and outcomes subcommittee. They plan to review Medicaid rates and payment, including items such as the substance use disorder treatment, PMIC ACT teams, funding for the intellectual disability waiver, among other issues. They will also monitor regional expenditures for the past and current fiscal years and how it will impact the development of children’s services.
* DHS is working on a training project related to community integration. The project includes $25,000 in funding provided by Developmental Disabilities Council, while MHDS will provide project coordination and the Center for Disabilities and Development will provide technical assistance. The project will train providers and case managers in person centered planning and positive behavioral support. DHS contracted with the Kansas UCEDD to develop the curriculum, which will then use a train-the-trainer model to assist providers in transitioning people into the community.

Discussion:

* Kay asked if there are plans to expand the internal workgroup responding to concerns raised by the DOJ to include families of those at the facilities and stakeholders. Connie responded that purpose of the internal workgroup is to identify policy and practice barriers associated with living in the community. The State of Iowa must have a plan to address needed DOJ actions. As the plan is implemented, families, stakeholders, and others will have opportunities to be involved. Kay suggested asking the Executive Committee to meet with Kelly Garcia and invite her to attend a Taskforce meeting. Dawn Francis will invite Kelly Garcia to these meetings.
* Di Findley requested discussion on whether the bills HF 2117 and SSB3190 could be combined or if there is any reason that CDAC providers would not be interested in being part of a database of direct support professionals. The bills would create a workgroup that would draft recommendations for a centralized database of direct care workers. Paula noted that in addition to higher wages, direct care workers also need benefits, such as insurance, sick leave, vacation time. Dawn agreed that it would be best to have only one database.
* Geoff Lauer asked how DHS has been preparing for the impact of Covid-19 on the direct care workforce, who are often young women that may not be able to work due to having children that cannot attend school. Connie said guidance is being developed and shared with DHS staff and constituents. She will check on specific guidance DHS has provided on this issue and expects COVID-19 information and updates will be posted on the DHS website.

10:45 **Continued Discussion of Legislative Priorities**

* Geoff Lauer of the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is partnering with the American Heart Association to increase referral from Iowa Stroke Network. The Brain Injury Waiver waiting list was adjusted to allow people with urgent or emergent issues to apply to be moved to the top of the list. Everyone on the waiting list received a letter sharing the BIA’s resource facilitation program. BIA is requesting $1.2 million in funding to hire a stroke program coordinator at IDPH and provide support to hospitals to provide best practice care, as well and increase support for people with disability resulting from stroke. Geoff will draft letter and send to Dawn for Executive Committee to sign. Preventative and service oriented.
* Di Findley requested a letter of support from the Taskforce in support of HF2117/SSB3190 creating a workgroup that would draft recommendations for a centralized database of direct care workers. Di will draft a letter of support and send to Dawn Francis, who will share with the Executive Committee. Dawn suggests only having one workgroup, rather than having one for CDAC and one for other groups. There must be additional funding to add information to the database and maintain it. Dawn suggested creating a workgroup to look at direct care workforce issues, with Di Findley, Paula Connolly, a representative from REM, Daryn Richardson, Gary McDermott, Jenna Batten, Jen Wolf, Shelly Chandler as potential members.
* Michael motioned to approve that the Executive Committee may draft and send letters without prior approval from the Taskforce. Brittney seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

**1:15 Committee Reports**

* Olmstead Plan Committee – no report
* Medicaid – no report
* Executive – no report
* Community Access Committee – no report

**1:30 State Agency Reports**

* Iowa Finance Authority (IFA)
  + Terri Rosonke shared IFA’s Consolidated Plan Annual Performance Report, which details housing and community development activities for the 2019 program year undertaken with funds provided to the state of Iowa by HUD. Public comment on this plan is accepted through March 30.
  + IFA hired Megan Marsh, who will replace Nancy Wallis.
  + Terri continues to compile OCTF’s request for data on accessible housing.
  + IDPH Traumatic Brain Injury State Partnership Program (TBI SPP)
* IDPH staff and the chair of the Advisory Board on Brain Injuries attended the “Hill Day” in Washington DC to advocate for traumatic brain injury funding. The National Association of State Head Injury Administrators requested increasing the funding from $11 million to $19 million in support of the TBI SPP. The current funding allows 27 states to receive funding; with the increase, all 50 states would receive funding.
* Iowa continues to use their TBI SPP programs to support screening of underserved populations (homeless, refugees, corrections, children’s behavioral health, & substance use disorder).
* Iowa will host a pre-conference workshop at the annual Governor’s Conference on Substance Use that will address the intersection of brain injury and substance use. The focus will be on person centered planning for people with an underlying brain injury.
* Resources related Covid-19 on people with disabilities and other underserved populations is available on the IDPH website: <https://bit.ly/2KT8mY2>
* Amerigroup
* The Consumer Choices Option program needs more independent brokers. Learn more about enrolling in the CCO program, finding an Independent Support Broker or becoming an Independent Support Broker: <https://www.veridianfiscalsolutions.org/isb.aspx>.

**2:00 Taskforce Member Reports**

There were no taskforce member reports.

**2:30 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3:00 Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

**The next meeting is Friday, May 8.**