**OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASKFORCE MEETING**

**January 10, 2020**

**10:00am – 3:00pm**

**Pleasant Hill Public Library, 5151 Maple Drive, Pleasant Hill**

**Conference Call-In: 888-290-7502, Participant Code 29273924#**

**Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** Lin Nibblink, John McCalley, Pam Heagle, Terri Rosonke, Kim Barber, Lisa Schneider

**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 minutes. Cynthia seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed. Agenda approved.

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

Kay motioned to move to approve the minutes. Michael seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

**VI.** 10:20 **Iowa DHS Update – Lin Nibbelink**

* Rick Shults’ retirement date is January 23. DHS will hire two individuals for his position; one will be a Facility Services Administrator and the other will be a Community Services Administrator.
* DHS posted the proposed rules for the children’s behavioral health system for public comment and the rules will now go to the MHDS Commission. The rules lay out the framework for MHDS regions, required services, access to services, and lists implementation dates. They still need to develop rules for crisis services. The Children’s Board is interested in regions’ transition plans, including information on service development, community collaborations, organizing governing boards, collaboration with area education agencies, and workforce outcomes.
* There are some changes to the MHDS regions, effective July 1, 2020. O’Brien and Dickenson counties will move to the Sioux Rivers Region. Clay, Osceola, Palo Alto counties are considering options for after the CEO retires. Kossuth, Winnebago, and Worth Counties requested to join Northwest Iowa Care Connections, which would leave Emmett County not contiguous to other counties. Emmet County is considering its options. Muscatine County requested to join Southeast Iowa Link.
* Employment First Update
	+ Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) promotes a recovery through work philosophy. IPS is an evidence-based supported employment model that a holistic team approach, where effectiveness measured on a 25-point scale. Research shows that the use of IPS results are 2.5x more likely to get a job than other models. IPS is effective for young adults, people with spinal cord injuries, people who are homeless, or those with a history of involvement with criminal justice or substance abuse concerns. Research is underway regarding the effectiveness IPS for people with ID/DD. Two regions are funding pilot projects. Primary funding sources for the project are Medicaid, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and MHDS regions. MHDS Division has technical assistance this year from Dr. Virginia Selleck in policy analysis and development to solve sustainability issues for IPS. See the attached “Employment Services in Iowa 2018 – Present report for more information on IPS.

Discussion:

* Kay asked for examples of items on the fidelity scale. Lin explained that there is a five point scale for each item: 1) zero exclusion (not turning anyone away), 2) IPS services are integrated with the mental health treatment or medical team, 3) competitive employment and education, 4) personalized benefits and planning is provided, 5) job search starts soon after person expresses interest, 6) IPS specialists develop relationships with employers and schools for job development, retention and promotion, and 7) retention supports are continuous, and 8) individual preferences are honored.
* Michael asked how IPS works with IVRS and about eligibility requirements. Lin explained that the team is composed of employment agency, mental health provider, IVRS, and a transportation provider. Most funding for supported employment is through the Intellectual Disability or Brain Injury waivers or State Plan Habilitation. If an individual does not have a waiver, IVRS and the Regions may be able to contribute funding.
* Michael asked if it is possible to expedite the process for organizations to provide services for different waivers. Lin said it is likely already as streamlined as possible. John McCalley responded that providers are deemed eligible by IME, with the credentialing process lasting 3-9 months or longer.
* Kay asked about the average number of hours IPS individuals work per week. Lin responded that individuals average 20-25 hours per week. Some states with IPS add supported education to the options for individuals to pursue. Kay suggested that IME track data related to lack of transportation, such as the number of people not getting a job due to or losing a job due to lack of transportation.
* Taskforce members expressed interest in the type of employment supports provided to residents at Woodward and Glenwood. Lin did not have this information.
* Lisa noted that there is a need for education on the Host Home Program for MCOs, providers, people with disabilities, and families. It may be helpful to carve out the Host Home Program under a specific waiver. Payment to the host includes room and board. Lisa suggested inviting REM Iowa, Vodec, and Mosaic to present to taskforce.
1. 10:45  **Continued Discussion of Legislative Priorities**
* Dawn provided highlights of the letter written for Iowa Department of the Blind regarding the 4+ program for transition age youth, in partnership with the Vinton-Shellsburg School District.
* The Olmstead Plan Committee is getting more data to determine next steps. Kay noted that there is confusion on the hourly supported community living rules. Clients have been told that they can use 8 hours/day, but the rule says they can use 14. The committee is not sure if this rule has been drafted or not but will draft a letter to the Executive Committee for review when they have information.
* Michael made motion to allow the Executive Comm to take action and write letters on any topic as needed between meetings. Cynthia seconded. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.
* Lisa attended the Governor’s Public Budget hearing and spoke on behalf of providers. Iowa Association of Community Providers requested a 10% increase in wages, with a 75% pass going to workers and remaining 25% for administrative costs. Lisa will draft a letter to Governor Reynolds for review by the Executive Committee.
* Kay noted that Iowa is withholding of funds from Iowa Total Care (ITC) and suggested monitoring it. Michael suggested inviting an ITC representative to OCTF meetings. Lisa will invite Ryan Saunders.
* Renee Speh encouraged writing a letter regarding funding the children’s mental health system. Renee Speh will draft a letter for legislators explaining that OCTF requests that they fund the children’s mental health system. Autism Society of Iowa will be forming priorities soon.
* Joel noted a need to make sure CDAC providers compensated in a timely manner and document concerns of low wages, using stories from MCO Watchdog page. Cynthia, Michael, Joel, and Michael will draft letter and send to the Executive Committee, who will then send to IME and legislators, and notify the Medical Assistance Advisory Council (MAAC).
1. **12:00 Lunch**
2. **1:15 Committee Reports**
* Olmstead Plan Committee
	+ - * The committee is taking a deeper look into survey data. 31 people indicated a loss in transportation and people that were moved to higher level of care. They are compiling a list of questions to ask DHS, MAAC, and legislators. They will use the data provided to draft a letter to DHS, legislators, and the MAAC.
* Medicaid – no report
* Executive – no report
* Community Access Committee
	+ The goal of Safe at Home Program is to serve as an entry point for home modifications and identify/remove barriers to independent living. The program will be spearheaded by Iowa Dept of Aging by identifying possible funding sources to allow homeowners to age in place. Tracy and Jenna agreed to draft a letter to legislators.
1. **1:30 State Agency Reports**
* **Iowa Department of the Blind (IDB) – Kim Barber**
	+ IDB extends appreciation for 4+ letter.
	+ Representative Axne visited IDB recently. She delivered audiobooks and toured the youth library, rec room, recording studio, orientation center, and other areas. Representatives from the Iowa Legislative Services and Iowa Dept of Education as well to discuss independent living and to tour the facilities.
	+ IDB hosting a Science, Technology Engineering, and Math Festival on February 29, followed by Iowa Regional Braille Challenge.
	+ They received notice that their federal funding will be cut by $30,000.
	+ The public is invited to visit the Iowa Department of the Blind website to vote on a new logo.
* **Iowa Department of Human Rights – Lisa Schneider**
	+ The Iowa Department of Human Rights is looking for a Human Rights Assistant. The position pays $19/hour and is 20 hours/week and requires a four-year degree.
	+ **Iowa Finance Authority**
		- * The waitlist for the HCBS rent subsidy program is down to 68 people.
			* Terri explained that IFA collects data on low-income housing vacancy rates, but it is not specific to accessibility. If a landlord rents to someone that does not have disability, it requires a rent addendum for the person to vacate the unit if someone with a disability applies. Person may also not be able to rent because they cannot get community supports needed to live there. Rent may be too high as well. Dawn requested information on how many accessible units each apartment complex has statewide and how many are vacant.
1. **2:00 Taskforce Member Reports**
* Kris will send info on Nightowl report to Anne.
* June reported that IME released the Emergency Placement on the Brain Injury Waiver. Everyone on the BI Waiver waiting list is eligible to apply and will get services as needed when they are on waiver.

**2:30 Public Comment**

* John McCalley with Amerigroup asked for support for identifying independent brokers and will send John will send information. Amerigroup started a social determinants of health pilot project with Monroe Elementary. It is focused on housing, homelessness, nutrition, and joblessness. There is also a state workgroup on social determinants staffed by Shelly Horak at IME that needs more disability advocates. Email Shelly (shorak@dhs.state.ia.us) to get involved.
* John McCalley clarified that State Auditor Rob Sand requested data on home health from IME, not the MCOs as has been reported in the media.
1. **3:00 Adjournment**
* Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

**The next meeting is Friday, March 13.**