

Olmstead Consumer Task Force

Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2024
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Virtual Only

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paula Connolly	Ernie Geiger (excused)
Garret Frey (excused)	

STAFF SUPPORT:

Falicia Beck

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Mari Brown	Devon McClurken
Morgan Casey	John McCalley
Anne Crotty	Koki Nakagawa
Eric Gebhart	Caitlin Owens
Victoria Keith	Terri Rosonke
Dawn Kekstadt	Pamela Ruppercht
Todd Lange	Jacklynn Sulentic
Brooke Lovelace	Danielle Workman
Patti Manna	

Materials Referenced

Olmstead Consumer Task Force March 8th, 2024, Meeting Agenda DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force January 12th, 2024, Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Aging and Disability Services and Behavioral Health Services Updates 03.08.2024
Creston Transition Fair

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Pakkebier, Olmstead Consumer Task Force chair called the meeting to order at 10:01am thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established.

Review & Vote on Approval of March 8th, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Lisa opened the floor to invite revisions to the March agenda, no revisions stated. Michael Martin made a motion to approve the March 8th, 2024, meeting agenda. Harriet Gulbranson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Lisa opened the floor to invite revisions to the January meeting minutes, no revisions stated. Joey Wesselink made a motion to approve the January 12th, 2024, meeting minutes. Joel Vander Molen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State Agency Updates

Dawn Kekstadt, Bureau Chief of Community Integration with Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) welcomed herself to the Taskforce and shared the role of her bureau which includes overseeing the Taskforce, targeted case management (TCM), autism services, and additional miscellaneous disability services, including the Olmstead Plan.

Terri Rosonke, Housing Programs and Strategic Initiatives Manager with Iowa Finance Authority, shared IFA continues to work on various housing projects statewide. Terri also shared Megan Marsh will be taking her role representing the IFA with the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce starting in May.

Taskforce Committee Reports

The Executive Committee updates were provided by Lisa Pakkebier, the chair of the committee. The Committee met on February 12 and discussed the Friday, February 9 virtual legislative event. Additionally, increased advocacy efforts by the Taskforce were discussed.

The Nominations Committee updates were shared by Marc Hines, the chair of the committee. The Committee has not met since the last full Taskforce meeting as there are no current openings on the Taskforce, therefore no need to review applications.

The Olmstead Plan Committee updates were provided by Amy Desenberg-Wines, the chair of the committee. The last full Taskforce meeting left the committee with a need to reconvene to figure out next steps in working with HHS. Amy had a small meeting with HHS staff Shan Sasser and Dawn Kekstadt to discuss how the Olmstead Plan Committee has been struggling for some time to figure out how to productively utilize and monitor the current Olmstead Plan. Additionally, how the Olmstead Plan Committee recently learned the Olmstead plan was HHS's, not the OCTF plan. The Committee would like to understand more regarding how the State uses the existing Olmstead Plan and engage in discussions with HHS on how the Taskforce could support efforts to move Iowa forward to implement Olmstead as intended. The Committee would like to learn more about opportunities for collaboration between the Olmstead Taskforce and HHS efforts. Shan and Dawn are working together to create a plan that makes sense moving forward OCTF

with the structural changes within HHS and other state departments and how to create more cohesiveness throughout the state. More to come to determine what comes next for the Olmstead Plan Committee and what opportunities there might be for collaboration efforts.

The Community Access Committee updates were provided by Jen Simmering, the chair of the committee. The Committee will be meeting Monday, March 11 and are seeking new action items for the committee to discuss. The Taskforce is asked to contact Jen with ideas on action items for this committee. Ideas were discussed such as parks and voting access. Brooke Lovelace shared a current bill that has passed the House and Senate in Iowa's legislature that restricts voting access and asked the Taskforce to provide comment on the bill. Brooke shared she is willing to assist in other information regarding voting access.

The Medicaid & Legislative Committee updates were provided by Megz Stroback, a member of the committee. The Committee discussed methods to increase attendance at future meetings such as sending reminder emails.

Lisa opened the floor to discuss the virtual legislative event. The Taskforce applauded the individuals who shared their stories at the event. The Taskforce expressed disappointment in the low number of attendees and lessons learned for future legislative events including strategically selecting a date, having a specific ask, and creating handouts related to specific bills to provide for the legislators. The Taskforce shared a commitment to hosting legislative events in the future.

Public Comment

Devon McClurken, NAMI Iowa, shared the Iowa Office of Recovery Services and NAMI Iowa are inviting individuals who have utilized Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) system. The survey can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ORS2024>.

Brooke Lovelace, Iowa's Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council, shared there is a group of advocates coming to the capitol Tuesday, March 12th to advocate around the work without worry bill and all are invited to join in the efforts.

Kelly Stull, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, shared her team is hosting a First Annual Transition Resource Fair on April 4, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM and is geared for any family who has a child or any age child who is going to need services. Attendees are also able to join virtually.

John McCalley, Wellpoint (formerly known as Amerigroup), asked the Taskforce for time on a future agenda to share about a collaborative project between Wellpoint and Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) that is targeted for individuals with disabilities in providing education and outreach.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Falcia Beck.