

## **Olmstead Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Bureau of Senior Services, Charleston Town Center Mall

Attending: Kevin Smith, Dave Sanders, Joe Cunningham, Jenni Sutherland, Richard Ward, Ardella Cottrill, Roy Herzbach, Steve Wiseman, Suzanne Messenger, Brenda Hellwig, Linda Maniak, Brian Holstine, Michelle Norweck, Jeannie Elkins, Rebecca Nicholas, Pat Moss, David Stewart and Vanessa VanGilder.

Executive Committee member Steve Wiseman chaired the meeting, which began at 10:05 a.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Members were welcomed and introductions were made.

### **Approval of July 2013 meeting minutes**

Steve Wiseman read the minutes of the last Olmstead meeting, which was held in July 2013. It was noted to add that Linda Maniak was absent from the meeting. Ardella Cottrill made a motion to accept the minutes with that addition, seconded by Kevin Smith. The motion carried.

### **Current Olmstead membership/report from membership committee**

Steve Wiseman gave a report on the current Olmstead Council membership. There has been several membership committee meetings to fill the various vacancies on the Council. Steve suggested that there are a couple of changes concerning membership that need to be looked at. Steve reported that an application was received from Mark Fordyce to fill the position of TBI waiver provider. There was a vacancy for a person with a disability or family member and the membership committee looked at two applications and the committee is recommending Angela Breeden for that position. People First is recommending Lewis Newell to fill their position on the Council. All those people were approved for membership on the Council. Pat Moss abstained from the vote for Angela Breeden, as she is a WVU CED employee. Steve also put forth a slate of officers for the Council. The slate is David Stewart, chair and Suzanne Messenger, vice chair. Elections will take place after lunch so that there is an opportunity in case anyone wants to make nominations from the floor.

### **Presentation - Take Me Home WV Sustainability Plan**

Brian Holstine from Take Me Home WV reported that they have transitioned 92 people since 2012 and the goal for the 2015 calendar year is 110 people. The program has to develop a sustainability plan to be submitted at the end of April 2015. His presentation included information on working with the AD Waiver and TBI waiver and case management. He feels that they need to have a housing coordinator and also someone to provide technical assistance. Council members discussed the need to have changes made in public policy and also to implement Personal Options. There was also talk about nursing homes and inviting someone from the nursing home industry to come back to the table to talk. Council members discussed Medicaid issues including lack of interaction with assisted living and adult care. Pat Moss suggested we have someone from BMS come and talk to us. Pat Nisbet is a member of the Council but she was unable to attend. Steve said he would contact her.

Suzanne Messenger joined the meeting and as vice chair, she chaired the remainder of the meeting.

### **Policies and Procedures and By Laws**

Vanessa reported that the policies and procedures along with the By Laws need to be looked at. When the membership committee was working on filling vacancies, several items were found that needed to be changed. It was suggested that a committee be formed to look at both of these. Members of the committee are Steve Wiseman, Ann McDaniel, Roy Herzbach and Kevin Smith. Vanessa will set up a meeting. Kevin made a motion that the Olmstead Council mission statement should be read at every Council meeting. Jeannie Elkins seconded the motion and it passed. It was also noted that there is to be a period for public comment at every meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

In regard election of officers, there were no nominations from the floor and it was moved to accept the slate of officers as presented by the membership committee. The slate was approved with Suzanne Messenger abstaining. David Stewart, who was elected as chairperson, was not in attendance at the meeting at the time of the elections.

### **Transition and Diversion program**

The Olmstead Transition and Diversion program has \$196,000 to spend on transitioning people from facilities into the community and assisting people to stay in their own homes. Vanessa is meeting with the state facilities to introduce herself and to give them information about the program. It was suggested to do a brochure about the program and also to work with Pat Kelly to try and get information out through the West Virginia Home Care Association. Kevin made a motion that anything the Olmstead office has with the former coordinator's name on it be changed. Roy seconded the motion and it passed.

There was discussion on using information already collected by the Centers for Independent Living that is on file rather than have the Center staff travel to each person individually and have them fill out an Olmstead application. Council members seemed agreeable with that as long as all of the needed information was provided.

There was also conversation on estimates on construction projects including building ramps and bathroom modifications. It was determined that the estimates needed to be itemized and consistent with what all general contractors would provide and that ramps could not be estimated by the foot.

Vanessa reported that applications were looked at in the middle of the month and asked if any Council members were interested in assisting with this. David Stewart, Rebecca Nicholas, Jenni Sutherland and Jeannie Elkins all advised that they would be glad to assist. Roy said he would assist with applications for diversions. It was also suggested to do random spot checks on the larger things that were purchased.

Vanessa gave a report on what items had been purchased in the past two months and members asked for a list of the applications and the circumstances (transition or diversion) be presented along with counties. Roy noted that there is an annual report due in August and it includes identifying priority areas.

Jenni gave information on a new veterans program that they are developing working with the Huntington VA in Cabell County.

### **Grant/budget**

Vanessa went over the part of the budget that is used for Council activities from the statement of work. Along with stipends and expenses for some members of the Council, that money is used to support events sponsored by the Olmstead

Council related to training and Olmstead activities. From this money, \$2,000 was given to the Fair Shake Network for their annual legislative training and Disability Advocacy Day. In the past, other money has been given for the Disability Caucus and for the PASSING workshop. Kelly Simpson from Mountain State Center for Independent Living submitted a request for \$100 to sponsor a hole at their annual golf tournament. The Council determined that that did not fall into the guidelines.

There is also money for production of educational and training materials and there was discussion of a purchase of a display. There was dialogue about printing copies of the Olmstead Plan but it was decided to wait and talk about changes to the Plan at the next meeting.

Pat Moss suggested that Council members be given a mid-size notebook to keep Olmstead paperwork in. She suggested that it have tabs for a table of contents, membership list, by laws, policies and procedures, minutes, committees and directors reports. Vanessa will have those for Council members at the next meeting.

Vanessa is working with BBHMF to get the remaining funding from FY2014 re allocated. There was \$4,492.32 remaining in Transition and Diversion funds and \$15,040.02 remaining in Olmstead Council Funds. Roy asked if some of those funds could be used for training for the new Olmstead coordinator and Vanessa will check on that.

### **Legislative Update**

Michelle Norweck gave a legislative report. The number 1 agenda item on the Fair Shake Network Disability agenda is full implementation of the Olmstead Plan. The Fair Shake Network is currently tracking 78 bills with new ones being introduced daily. The number one concern is the budget bill and Michelle went over a few bills of interest. Vanessa will send out the Fair Shake Network's legislative list to all members.

There will be a rally concerning the AD Waiver on February 17 at 10 a.m. at the Capitol sponsored by AARP. Participants are asked to wear black. There are currently 2,119 people on the waiting list and 532 people died last year while waiting.

### **Website**

There is work being done to update the Olmstead website. The current one cannot be changed and a new website is being worked on. If anyone has any suggestions of resources for the website, let Vanessa know.

#### **Next meeting – April 7, 2015**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7. Members discussed locations and agreed that the BoSS office at the Charleston Town Center Mall is a good location. It was suggested to have conference calling available for those who were unable to attend in person. The next meeting will be a full day meeting and will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Ardella made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brenda. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.