

## **Olmstead Council Meeting**

Tuesday, July 7, 2015 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bureau of Senior Services, Charleston Town Center Mall

Attending: Elliott Birckhead, Angela Breeden, Marcus Canaday, Ardella Cottrill, Jeannie Elkins, Mark Fordyce, Laura Friend (phone), Nancy Fry (phone), Brenda Hellwig (phone), Roy Herzbach, Suzanne Messenger, Lewis Newell, Rebecca Nicholas, Kim Nuckles, Jenni Sutherland, Richard Ward and Steve Wiseman (all Council members), Vanessa VanGilder (Olmstead coordinator) and Taylor Bird, Ruth Vance and Megan Cobb, student interns.

Vice chairperson Suzanne Messenger chaired the meeting, which began at 10:05 a.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Members were welcomed and introductions were made. Council members took a moment to remember our chairperson, David Stewart, who passed away on June 24. David was a long time member of the Olmstead Council and the Olmstead Task Force, prior to that.

### **Reading of the Mission Statement**

Vanessa VanGilder read the mission statement.

### **Approval of February 2015 meeting minutes**

Ardella Cottrill made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2015 meeting. Roy Herzbach seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Public Forum**

There was no one from the public in attendance to address the Council. Several Council members made announcements.

Jenni Sutherland invited Council members to attend Listening sessions on July 8 in Morgantown and July 9 in Elkins. The listening sessions are to obtain information about how West Virginians access information and assistance with Long Term Services and Supports for the No Wrong Door planning grant. For those who are unable to attend, comments will be accepted July 13-27, 2015. The final plan is due to the Administration for Community Living in September.

Nancy Fry talked about the difficulty in getting mental health and substance abuse in long term care facilities and there was further discussion on the topic.

Marcus Canaday gave an update on Take Me Home West Virginia. The Sustainability Plan was submitted to CMS and was accepted. The general budget outline was submitted and the budget needs to be approved annually. He reported that a new transition navigator agency – CCIL – has been added. They have 6 transition navigators and now there are 12 navigators around the state. The new navigators will not be serving as case managers or direct care staff. A three day training was held last week.

Lewis Newell reported that the People First Conference will be held the second week of September at Jackson's Mill. There is an application process but registration has not gone out yet.

Vanessa thanked the Council members for their thoughts with the passing of her father two weeks ago.

### **Membership Update**

Steve Wiseman gave the Membership Committee update. He reported that the committee met and decided to advertise for Council seat vacancies. The Council still has vacancies for an AD waiver provider, an IDD waiver provider, someone from housing and a person with a disability or family member. There is also an at large position. With David Stewart's passing, vice chair Suzanne Messenger will fill that vacancy until elections. At the next meeting, there will need to be a special election for that position. The nominating committee will meet to find potential candidates. Jenni Sutherland and Angela Breeden were added to the membership committee.

### **By Laws Approval**

The By Laws were presented to the Council for approval. Since the April meeting, the Executive Committee looked at the wording on attendance. It was emphasized the importance of attending the Council meetings, participating in good conversation and the expectation that those attending will take the information from the meetings back to share with various organizations. Roy Herzbach made a motion to accept the bylaws and Steve Wiseman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Transition and Diversion Program**

Vanessa gave an update on the Transition and Diversion program. All of the funding has been spent and 219 people have been approved for funding.

Vanessa reported that several people have called and thanked the Olmstead office for assisting them or have sent cards or thank you notes with receipts.

There was discussion on possibly reexamining the criteria and trying to determine imminent risk. There was also conversation about additional resources, keeping the program uncomplicated and sharing of information.

Nancy Fry shared thoughts on having a scoring system similar to a national system they use for homelessness. That system assesses placement for housing. There was also talk of a release form so that the Olmstead office could work with other agencies. There was also a suggestion that people applying for the program go through the ADRCs, similar to the process for Money Follows the Person.

It was also discussed to see about doing an improvement package for additional funding.

Suzanne brought up to the Council that there is no policy if a Council member or their family member would request assistance from the Transition and Diversion Program.

Roy said he would like to see a percentage set aside for transitions. He asked that some applications be brought to the next Council meeting so that Council members would have a better understanding of the information that people put on the applications.

Suzanne said that the Executive Committee will follow up on this.

### **New Olmstead Website**

The new Olmstead website has been completed and is available. Pat Moss from CED had the site checked for accessibility and found a couple of small issues and that information has been passed on to the website designer. There is now an Olmstead display and it was at the Disability Caucus.

### **Annual Report**

The Olmstead report for FY2015 is due to the Governor's Office by August 31, 2015. The last report done was for FY2013. Council members discussed what they felt should be included in the report including history, national issues, graphics,

and direct quotes from people who have received assistance. The Executive Committee will review it prior to submission.

### **Department of Justice Report**

The Department of Justice did an investigation into children's mental health services in West Virginia and released their findings in June. The investigation found that the state relies too much on out of state placement and out of home institutionalization. The Secretary of DHHR is working with the DOJ to develop a plan. The Council discussed several ways to help with this including wrap around services, improving the state's provider network, working to serve children who are not in the state's custody, creating a state funding stream and changes to the juvenile justice system. The Council stressed the importance of working with the whole family that is involved and not just the child(ren). Suzanne suggested that Council members watch the issue and monitor the state's progress. Vanessa will get information and provide updates to the Council. Roy Herzbach made a motion that we invite a representative from Secretary Bowling's office to attend the next Olmstead Council meeting and give an update on the response to the DHHR response to the findings letter and the progress that is being made and also to answer questions. Jeannie Elkins seconded the motion. Marcus Canaday, Elliott Birkhead, Rebecca Nicholas and Richard Ward abstained. The motion carried.

### **Revising the Olmstead Plan**

There was discussion on how to revise the Plan, which is almost 10 years old. A process to get stakeholder input is needed and there was conversation about whether to make it a plan for a certain length of time, such as a 3 year plan or 5 year plan. Suzanne recommended that the plan be sent out to members again so that there is ample time to review it and it was discussed further at the next Olmstead Council meeting. Vanessa will research processes for revising and updating the plan and will have recommendations at the next meeting.

### **Open Discussion/Announcements**

Jenni passed out flyers for the upcoming listening sessions for the No Wrong Door grant.

### **Next meeting**

The next quarterly meeting for the Olmstead Council was previously scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2015. With the new fiscal year starting October 1, there is a

chance that money for the new fiscal year will not have been received by then. Vanessa will send out a Doodle poll for dates in the first two weeks of November (excluding Veteran's Day), so that people can advise which dates are best for them.

Marcus Canaday made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Fry seconded the motion. It carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.