

Olmstead Council Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2015 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bureau of Senior Services, Charleston Town Center Mall

Attending: Elliott Birckhead, Ardella Cottrill, Mark Drennen (phone), Jeannie Elkins, Mark Fordyce, Laura Friend (phone), Nancy Fry, Roy Herzbach, Suzanne Messenger, Ann McDaniel, Lewis Newell (phone), Rebecca Nicholas, Kim Nuckles, Carissa Shirley, Tracy White, Richard Ward and Steve Wiseman (all Council members), Vanessa VanGilder (Olmstead coordinator) and Megan Cobb, student intern.

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

Welcome and Introductions

Members were welcomed and introductions were made.

Reading of the Mission Statement

Vanessa VanGilder read the mission statement.

Approval of July 2015 meeting minutes

Nancy Fry made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2015 meeting. Ardella Cottrill seconded the motion. The motion carried. Steve asked if Council meeting minutes were posted to the Olmstead website and Vanessa said that they had been in the past and that she would make sure the recent ones had been submitted once they are approved.

Public Forum

There was no one from the public in attendance to address the Council.

Membership Update

Steve Wiseman gave the Membership Committee update. He asked the Council to welcome Tracy White, director of the Fair Shake network and Carissa Shirley who is representing the Aging and Disability Resource Center. Dr. Lesley Cottrell from WVU CED had been planning to attend also. There are still vacancies for an AD waiver provider, an IDD waiver provider, someone from housing and someone

from employment. Several possibilities for these positions were discussed. Elections will be held at the first meeting of 2016.

Transition and Diversion Program

Vanessa gave an update on the Transition and Diversion program. The fiscal year started October 1 and we have not received our money yet. Steve made a motion to ask Vicky Jones that the Olmstead funding be managed separately from the other Community Access grants. Nancy seconded the motion. There was discussion concerning identifying possibly vendors and that possibly an Announcement of Funding Availability could be done rather than going through purchasing. The motion passed with Elliott Birckhead abstaining.

Council members discussed the program regarding having a waiting list, defining what is imminent risk of institutionalization and possibly having all applications go through the Aging and Disability Resources Network, as the Take Me Home WV Program does. There was also talk about a scoring system, doing home visits and keeping some money available for transitions.

Following the discussion, Roy made a motion that some money be set aside to only do emergency/priority situations. Steve seconded the motion. After further discussion the motion was amended to add that the details were to be determined by the Executive Committee. The motion passed.

Council members discussed the possibility of doing a supplemental appropriation or improvement package. Ann made a motion that Vanessa prepare a supplemental appropriation to assist with meeting the needs of Olmstead transition and diversion program to help the state comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and to submit it through the proper channels of the department. Steve seconded the motion and it passed with the dollar amount to be determined. Elliott Birckhead and Rebecca Nicholas abstained. Ann advised that the waiting list can help justify the need for additional funding. Steve added that our legislative priorities say that we are going to obtain additional funding to support other transition and diversion programs throughout West Virginia.

Revising the Olmstead Plan

There was discussion on how to revise the Plan, which is almost 10 years old. After discussion, it was decided that to begin on this needed a separate effort outside this meeting and a working group was formed to look at what progress has been made and if measurable goals can be written. A committee was formed to do a high-level review of what has been achieved and to make suggestions to the full Council. Members of the committee are Steve Wiseman, Ann McDaniel, Rebecca Nicholas, Suzanne Messenger and Vanessa VanGilder. Vanessa will set up a meeting of the group for January. The committee will also work on a work plan and timeline.

Legislative Priorities for 2016

Council members reviewed the 2015 legislative priorities and discussed that the priorities did not seem to specifically address children's issues. It was suggested to add a sentence about a child's right to education to priority 5 and to add a Priority 6 to keep people in the most integrated setting. Other suggestions concerned employment and adding a bullet point to each priority to address children. Nancy suggested that the Executive Committee develop this and send it out to the Council.

Open Discussion/Announcements

Louis announced that next month there will be a People First meeting in Charleston.

Tracy announced that Disability Advocacy Day at the legislature will be held on February 10 and people are encouraged to exhibit. The Fair Shake Network annual training will be held on February 9 at Emmanuel Church in Charleston. Roger Howard from Idaho will be the guest speaker. Sensitive Santa will be held on December 12 in Cross Lanes from 9-12. The North Pole Express fundraiser has sold out.

Nancy reported that she had attended a training on hoarding and there was a discussion on the lack of available resources.

Steve spoke about the recent forums that the Developmental Disabilities Council had around the state where they asked people what was working, what was not working and what they would like to change. They found that people are worried that their children will be institutionalized due to cutbacks in the IDD waiver and

no expansion of the AD Waiver. He also expressed concern of the building of the Dazzy Vance Mountain Retreat in Logan County and the violation of the principles of Olmstead.

Nancy talked about the Safe at Home pilot project which started October 1 and is supposed to bring kids back home. She expressed concerns about the lack of transportation and that all the services that people need are still not available.

Next meeting

Following discussion, Nancy made a motion that the quarterly Olmstead Council meetings in 2016 be 3rd Tuesday of February, May, August and November. Ardella seconded the motion. Following further discussion, Nancy amended the motion to have the meetings on the first Thursday of February, May, August and November and it passed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.