

## **Olmstead Council Meeting**

Thursday, February 2, 2017 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bureau of Senior Services, Charleston Town Center Mall

Attending: Elliott Birckhead, Marcus Canaday, Ardella Cottrill, Jeannie Elkins, Joyce Floyd, Mark Fordyce, Laura Friend (phone), Nancy Fry, Susan Given, Roy Herzbach (phone), Amber Hinkle, Regina Mayolo (phone), Ann McDaniel, Suzanne Messenger, Rebecca Nicholas, Pat Nisbet, Meredith Pride, Kim Nuckles, Paul Smith, Richard Stonestreet, Jenni Sutherland, Richard Ward, Steve Wiseman, Jim Womeldorff (phone), Marvin Cottrell and Linda Watts, guests.

Chairperson Mark Fordyce chaired the meeting, which began at 10:04 a.m. Paul Smith read the mission statement.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Members were welcomed and introductions were made.

### **Presentation**

Linda Watts, Deputy Commission from the Bureau of Children and Families talked about children in state custody, children out of state and children with disabilities both in and out of state. She reported that the BCF use community resources as much as possible to keep people from going into state care but there is a shortage of community-based resources. They are working on kinship relative care as much as possible and have reduced the number of children out of state. There is a need to work across state systems and to find more in state resources. There is also a need for adult resources, transition and discharge planning and foster homes.

She reported that the Safe at Home program is working well and has prevented children from going into placement. That program will be expanding in April. She told us that there needs to be more specialized family care homes and more training for foster families.

### **Approval of November 3, 2016 meeting minutes**

Ann made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting with the addition of Jenni Sutherland's name to those attending. Joyce seconded the motion and it passed.

### **Public Forum**

No one from the public was in attendance.

### **Membership Update**

Meredith Pride is the new Center for Independent Living representative, filling the position held by Cathy Hutchinson. It was announced that People First has a new coordinator, Melissa Southall, and Ardella will contact her to see who will fill that position on the Council. Membership also discussed Council members who have not been attending meetings. The bylaws talk about meeting attendance and it was decided that letters will be sent to several members thanking them for their service and to solicit new members. Nancy recommended sending letters advising those members that we appreciated their participation and that they are always welcome to attend as the meetings are open to the public. It was suggested to ask Mark Drennen to identify a provider organization to be an active participant if he cannot attend.

### **Take Me Home WV Update**

Marcus reported that in calendar year 2016 there were 78 transitions and that the goal was 80. This is the final year of transitions. He also stated that referrals are up, and intakes are up. The demonstration program is winding down, but people will continue to be supported into 2018. He is working with CMS on the design of the transition services and those should start through the waiver program in January 2018. The services they are looking at include pre-transition case management, and one-time startup funding for household supplies and furnishings and utility deposits. Work is progressing on the Incident Management System and they should be testing it soon. They are also exploring an online case management system for all the waiver programs and telehealth.

### **Transition and Diversion program**

The grant money was received in January and 108 applications were approved for \$131,746. These were applications that have been waiting since July 2016. Vanessa reported about one person who waited in Sharpe Hospital for over two months because there wasn't funding available anywhere else for him to transition to the community. Steve suggested writing a letter to Vickie Jones concerning this example as it is a violation of Title II of the ADA. There was discussion concerning people unnecessarily institutionalized. We need to work to make the money go as far as possible. Roy was concerned that we were not getting many requests for transitions. It was suggested that we have Pat Kelly from the West Virginia Health Care Association put information in their newsletter.

## **Revising the Olmstead Plan**

Steve reported that he and some other met with the new DHHR Secretary about the waiver and talked about home and community-based services, Olmstead and the Department of Justice. He said that everyone totally agreed that they do not want to cause people to go into institutions. Ann suggested that the Governor's and Secretary's office be approached to look at the Olmstead Plan. Ann suggested a letter with key information in it to point out savings by using home and community-based services rather than institutional settings. Not only is it cost saving, but it is the right thing to do. There was also discussion of the need for affordable housing and that there are over 2,000 people on the waiting list for subsidized housing. It was suggested that the Olmstead Workgroup that has been meeting get together and write the letter.

There was a further discussion on housing, shelters, and the strict requirements of the Housing Development Fund.

Joyce suggested having a meeting and planning to get a representative to work with us. We need involvement from the Governor's and Secretary's office. Kim will follow up with Jason Pizatella after the letter is sent. Possible meeting dates will be sent out.

## **Open Discussion/Announcements**

Ardella announced that the West Virginia Behavioral Health Planning Council is looking for youth members, ages 18-25.

Ann announced that the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is also looking for members.

Paul reported that the Fair Shake Network legislative training will be held March 7 and that Disability Advocacy Day at the Legislature is March 8. Exhibit tables are still available. The training will be at the Dunbar Recreation Center and it is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fair Shake Network.

Behavioral Health Day at the Legislature will be February 15.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4, at 10 a.m. at the Bureau of Senior Services at the Town Center Mall. Ann made a motion to adjourn at 1:45 p.m.