

Olmstead Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 3, 2018 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bureau of Senior Services, Charleston Town Center Mall

Attending: Ardella Cottrill, Jeannie Elkins, Joyce Floyd, Mark Fordyce, Nancy Fry, Stephanie Thorn (for Susan Given), Roy Herzbach, Ann McDaniel (phone), Suzanne Messenger, Rebecca Nicholas (phone), Kim Nuckles, Meredith Pride, Paul Smith (phone), Richard Ward, Jim Cremeans (for Steve Wiseman), Jim Womeldorff (phone), and Vanessa VanGilder.

Chairperson Mark Fordyce chaired the meeting, which began at 10 a.m. Meredith Price read the mission statement.

Welcome and Introductions

Members were welcomed and introductions were made.

Approval of February 1, 2018 meeting minutes

Ann McDaniel made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ardella Cottrill. Stephanie Thorn asked that the minutes clarify that the OHFLAC regulations that were discussed were the Title 64CSR74 regulations. Ann approved adding that to her motion. The motion carried.

Public Forum

No one from the public was in attendance. Mark Fordyce brought to the Council members' attention that there will be a new transportation provider replacing MTM. The new company is Logisticare and they will be holding meetings around the state during the next two weeks to provide information.

Presentation

Rich Ward from the WV Division of Rehab Services gave a presentation on the end of year information for the agency's annual report for FY2017. He went over many of the agency's accomplishments and spoke of the economic impact taking place in WV by helping people with disabilities work. He provided many statistics and spoke of the important of the transition services that are provided to students. He also spoke community rehab programs and about working with employers to help determine their workforce needs. He gave information on the upcoming summer youth camps, the agency's VISION program. The agency has also started working with the Division of Corrections. He explained about the free technical assistance received as part of the psychiatric rehab program which will help develop an online self-study course for the DRS counselors.

Rich also explained about several of the partnership that the agency has including the WV Statewide Independent Living Council and the WV State Rehab Council. He talked about the Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services program and the agency's sponsorship of the Disability History Essay contest. Also cited was the Community Living Services program that helps people remain independent. Rich estimated that the Community Living Services program has saved the state \$4.8 million.

Other topics were the partnership with Workforce WV and the WV Adult Education program, the agency's Consumer Affairs Committees and the Disability Determination section which is a part of DRS under a contract with the Social Security Administration. There is also an investigate live which investigates fraud.

Rich talked about the two orders of selections that are closed and reported that services for people with disabilities are also available through Workforce, not just for those who are working with DRS.

Legislative Update

Ann McDaniel have a legislative update. She highlighted several bills for the Council.

SB397 – creating the crime of impersonating a person with a disability.

SB575 – providing 24 additional ICF beds. She said that this is a violation of the Hartley decree and that DHHR will have to go to court and ask permission for this to happen. She also added that Mountain State Justice may challenge this in court. The purpose of the bill is to move people into less restrictive settings.

HB3104 – transfer administration of the West Virginia Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Fund to the Department of Health and Human Resources.

HB4006 – to improve the focus on school-level continuous improvement processes and staff professional development. This bill also eliminated Education and the Arts and moves those agencies to other places in state government. The Division of Rehab Services will move to the Department of Commerce.

HB4035 - creating a legislative coalition to study and report to the Legislature on palliative care.

HB4199 – to permit a nursing home to use trained individuals to administer medication under the direction of a registered professional nurse. Governor Justice vetoed this bill.

Members also discussed another bill that passed – SB359. This bill changed the curricula for new mental hygiene commissioners Authorizing Supreme Court establish curricula for mental hygiene commissioners and certain magistrates. The bill eliminates the requirement that new mental hygiene commissioners undergo a minimum of three days training in mental hygiene areas and removes the requirement that training program include training in manifestations of mental illness and addiction.

Stephanie reported that on a federal level, Disability Rights of WV has received a grant – Strengthening Protection for Social Security Beneficiaries Act. It is a new Protection and Advocacy grant that will allow DRWV to review representative payees for both people in psychiatric hospitals and individuals. The grant will go in effect August 1, 2018.

Membership Update

Ardella reported that Michael Meadows has resigned from the Council.

Two applications for Council members were presented. Application information for Sherry Minter-Elliott and Renee Chapman were presented to the Council. Roy Herzbach made a motion that they be accepted for membership and Jeannie Elkins seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Council still has one seat available for a person with a disability or family member and for someone with housing expertise.

Take Me Home WV Update

Marcus Canaday was not able to attend the meeting. Suzanne Messenger said she attended the last Team meeting and that the Take Me Home WV budget was approved. Vanessa will follow up with Marcus about funding for Olmstead forums. Suzanne also reported that Metro AAA is advertising for a transition navigator for the eastern panhandle area.

Transition and Diversion program

The Transition and Diversion funding was received in mid-January and most of the funding has been spent. There is some money earmarked for transitions that will be held until the beginning of August. If that money is not used for transitions, then the review committee will look at the applications and spend the money before the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

Vanessa reported that that were two transitions in January. In February, there were 52 applications approved including one transition. In March, there were 49 applications approved and in April there were 37 applications approved.

One of the transitions was for a person who had been in a psychiatric hospital for 8 years.

Olmstead Annual Report

Members of the Council gave suggestions for the successes and barriers of the past year for the upcoming annual report. Suggestions for successes included the Money Follow the Person program, the Substance Abuse Waiver, Prestera's Quick Response Team, peer and recovery coach certification, peers support in emergency departments and WV ABLE accounts. There has been more availability for mental health first aid training and the 40-hour recovery coach training. The West Virginia leadership Academy also provides training.

Barriers are less services for the IDD waiver participants, cuts in self-direction for IDD waiver participants, changes to the mental hygiene process and many resources have been diverted to response to the opioid crisis. There has also been an increase in health issues due to drug use. There has also been changes in laws concerning medication distribution that has hurt innocent bystanders.

Revising the Olmstead Plan

Marcus was not able to attend the meeting so Vanessa will get in touch with him about the Take Me Home WV budget, which included money for the statewide forums. Several Council members volunteered to assist with the planning. They were Mark Fordyce, Meredith Price and Joyce Floyd.

Open Discussion/Announcements

Vanessa announced that the Fair Shake Network would be working with V100 for their annual yard sale on Saturday, May 12.

Jeannie announced that her son Alan had been recognized for 15 years of service working at Boone Memorial Hospital.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.