

Olmstead Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2020

Olmstead Mission Statement

The mission of the Council is to develop and monitor the implementation of a plan to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities to live, learn, work and participate in the most integrated setting in the community of their choice through West Virginia's compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Olmstead Vision Statement

The vision of the Council is for all West Virginians with disabilities to live, learn, work and participate in the most integrated setting in the community of their choice.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Steve Wiseman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Attendance:

Carissa Davis, Steve Wiseman, Ardella Cottrill, Joyce Floyd, Esther Hupp, Lynsay Frye, Liz Ford, Jenni Sutherland, Rich Ward, Marcus Canaday, Susan Given, Cara Price, Ann McDaniel, Sally Blackburn, Angie Breeden, Marcus Canaday, Suzanne Messenger, Nancy Fry, Paul Smith, Janice Holland, Willis McCollam, Amber Hinkle, Teresa McDonough, and Elliott Birkhead

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT

Janice read the mission Statement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joyce made a motion to approve May 2020 minutes and Janice seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

TAKE ME HOME WV UPDATE

Marcus gave an update. Thirty-seven people have transitioned this year and the target for the year is 80. An outreach coordinator was hired, and a workgroup has been created to work on outreach to facilities to increase referrals and let facilitators, residents, and families know the program is still operational. Internet access & equipment, and stocking food pantries up to six months are new COVID-19 related services.

Online Case Management - The provider phase of the pilot is complete. A final report will be developed and sent to Commissioner Beane at the Bureau for Medical Services.

Telehealth – The enrollment period has been extended from six months to one year. Fourteen individuals are currently enrolled with seven months left in the enrollment period.

No Wrong Door – There is a contract with West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities to work on the first-year initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. Mark Fordyce has been hired as the Program Manager for this project.

Applications are being accepted for the Quality Manger position. This individual will work with the state on the Incident Management System project to a identify, procure, and implement the new system. This position will on the Electronic Visit Verification system.

Steve asked about strategies to help people not go into facilities unnecessarily. Marcus stated that key access points where people might us to get more information about long-term care options have been identified in the No Wrong Door strategic plan. Strategies around expediting eligibility processes are also included in the strategic plan. Sally stated that the Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) recently sent a letter to hospital social workers talking about the ADRN and resources that are available. Sally will send the letter to Carissa to distribute to Council members

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members are still needed. The Membership Committee recommended Emily Robinson for membership. Janice made a motion to accept the application for membership of Emily Robinson. Liz seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Angie and Suzanne were nominated to serve on the Executive Committee. Steve called for nominations from the floor. Ann made a motion to close nominations and Janice seconded the motion and the motion carried with Angie and Suzanne abstaining. The Council voted to accept Executive Committee membership of Angie and Suzanne and they abstained from voting.

TRANSITION AND DIVERSION PROGRAM

- Startup budget was \$192,950.00 - \$142,688.40 spent
- 64 Approved (some requested multiple items) – 6 Transitions
- 69 Denied
- 11 applications to be reviewed

Annual Fees – Three participants are currently getting Personal Emergency Response System annual fees paid for through the Olmstead Transition and Diversion Program. Suzanne made a motion to grandfather in the three participants, but not approve annual fees in the future. Ann seconded the motion. Nancy and Susan voice concerned about what happens in the future if we don't have funding and that we should give the current recipients notice that the fees will not be paid in the future. Teresa stated we should pay for this year and give notice that they will not be paid in the future. Sally mentioned discussing additional options with Carissa. Suzanne amended her motion to include discussing alternatives for the three individuals to see

if there are cheaper options. The amended motion carried, with Susan opposing. We will discuss adding language concerning annual fees and continuation of funding to the application and other materials.

Old Business

Senate Bill 575 Monitoring Committee

Senate Bill 575 passed in 2018 that gave permission to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) to add 24 ICF/IID beds (six, four bed facilities) to serve individuals who meet the criteria for placement who are also children coming back from out-of-state, others in state psychiatric facilities, and those at high risk of being further institutionalized. The committee will monitor individuals transitioning from those facilities. Contracts have been developed to serve children in facilities to be located in Hancock, Wayne, Putnam, and Wyoming Counties and two facilities to serve adults in Putnam and Barbour Counties. Two of the facilities are scheduled to be operated by ResCare. Steve raised the issue during the Committee's July meeting that there is a rumor that there is an admissions ban on ResCare statewide and Cindy Beane confirmed that is true. Therefore, it's unclear how ResCare can operate these facilities. Due to the admissions ban, there is an idea that DHHR could use these beds for other people who cannot get into an ICF. Ann mentioned that the agreement was that these were always supposed to be transitional beds. Angie asked if there was a reason certain counties were chosen for the facilities? Steve said part of the reason for children was to be closer to families and what counties did not have ICFs. There is language in the law that these facilities are not to be within five miles of other facilities or adjacent to behavioral health centers.

Angie asked what keeps someone in the ICF if they want to move out, they are their own guardian, and there is not waiting list? Teresa said they need to be talking with their I/DD team. Susan stated the person could apply for waiver services. Suzanne asked if the Olmstead Council could advocate for a regulatory change that would require when children reach the age of majority and are moving to the adult facility that the children's facility staff be required to provide information about community services, including the option to apply to the I/DD Waiver? Nancy said Legal Aid's Community Advocates also need to get out more information. Susan also mentioned the responsibility of schools in transition planning. Steve stated that we need to think about what the Olmstead Council needs to take on regarding Angie's questions. Steve mentioned looking at a report that the Olmstead Council and Developmental Disabilities Council created years ago. Ann would like to see who the Council can work with to build a pathway to services. Susan and Amber discussed difficulty working with DHHR guardians. The Executive Committee needs to work on a strategy to address the situation.

OLMSTEAD PLAN REVISION UPDATE Status

Carissa contacted the Governor's Chief of Staff and has not heard back.

New Business

2021 Policy Priorities

Establish a workgroup to look at revising the priorities. Steve asked Council Members to contact Carissa within the next two weeks if they are interested in serving on the workgroup.

Annual Report

Ann made a motion to send to DHHR staff for approval to submit to the Governor's office. Ardella seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Announcements

Susan announced a new Legal Director (Russ Cook) to start with Disability Rights of WV on September 8th.

Teresa announced TBI Waiver slots are available.

Liz suggested doing an article from the Council to all the papers in WV to educate people.

The Mountain State Conference on Disabilities will take place virtually next month.

Steve adjourned the meeting without objection at 12:01 PM.

Save the Date: Next meeting date **November 5, 2020.**