

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, August 5, 2015
12:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.
Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Ashley Bailey
Alex Bartolic
Marrie Bottelson
Emilie Breit
Eric Kloos
Lynne Megan
Alexandra Morrissey
Carolyn Perron
David Quilleash
Robbie Reedy
Linda Simenstad
Bonnie Jean Smith
Mike Stern
Katheryn Ware

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mary Hauff
David R. Johnson
Pamela Hoopes
Jim Lovold
Barbara Lundeen
Kate Onyeneho
Mary Raasch
Jacqueline Rightler

MEMBER ABSENT

Melissa Winger

GUESTS

John McGrory, North Star Fellow
Steve Larson, The Arc Minnesota
Stephanie Nelson, Southside Services
Mary Tingerthal, Minnesota Housing Finance
Agency
Christopher Vaaler, Legislative Assistant to
Senator John Hoffman

GUESTS, cont'd.

Paige Varin, Intern, The Arc of Minnesota
Jerrod Vincent, staff support for Robbie Reedy
Johah Weinberg, Autism Society of Minnesota
Quinnitina Williams, staff for Marrie Bottelson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Senator John Hoffman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

Colleen Wieck introduced Mary Tingerthal, Commissioner, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), noting what a distinct honor and pleasure it was to have her with us today. Tingerthal first worked on housing issues with MHFA in the 1970s, then left state government, and recently returned.

Tingerthal volunteered to work on the Olmstead Plan and it's been a pleasure to work with her in that capacity. She has both the big picture and a command of the details, knows how to facilitate and can listen without being defensive.

Tingerthal said that she was far more immersed in just getting the Plan right in December 2014 when she learned that the Lieutenant Governor would be leaving her position as Chair of the Olmstead Subcabinet. The Subcabinet was then reformulated, Governor Mark Dayton issued a new Executive Order to further define the role of the Subcabinet, and Tingerthal was named the Chair.

At that time, the Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO) had not found a home base, either physically or financially. The MHFA had space available that was given to the OIO and, thanks to the Legislature and Senator Hoffman, funds were appropriated to financially support the OIO.

Even though the Olmstead Plan has not yet been approved by the Court, we have not been idle. Implementation is underway and we should begin to see transformational work within the next year or two. We want to do something very innovative, and we want to clear up myths and misunderstandings about the Olmstead Plan. We do not want to simply rebrand what is already being done.

Tingerthal said that the Council's mission and the IPSII outcomes are themes that come through the work being done with the Olmstead Plan. She noted that, prior to this past January, she had had little experience in the area of developmental disabilities. Her work was focused on incorporating accessible housing into the Plan. She is coming to learn the language and the context of the work now being done, and believes this is a part of her education.

Tingerthals' presentation covered the following specific areas:

What is the Olmstead Plan?

The Olmstead Plan addresses how state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities will do so in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual. This supports the Council's mission and how state agencies need to look at the world differently.

When all is said and done, the key measure will be the improved quality of life for people with disabilities. A quality of life survey has been tested and will be disseminated to 3,000 people next year. A longitudinal study three years in the future will determine how the quality of life for individuals with disabilities has improved.

What is the Olmstead Plan vision?

The vision is that people with disabilities are living, learning, working, enjoying life in the most integrated setting of their choice. Choice means true choice, people having more than one option.

This is a big vision but a fundamental government function of the Olmstead Plan - we're going to be doing these things in this way by this time. We must be able to mobilize people to assure that change actually occurs.

What's different?

Tingerthal emphasized that the focus is on measurable goals. She said there were working with 243 activities at the outset. There was a broad range of diversity but many were process steps, and the process steps will be moved to work plans for monitoring purposes.

There are now 33 measurable goals. A total of 41 strategies have been identified. There will be a work plan for each strategy along with an end date and the people responsible for implementing.

The roles of the Olmstead Subcabinet and the Olmstead Implementation Office have been clarified. These build on the Governor's Executive Order that was issued in January 2015 to continue to Olmstead Subcabinet.

The Subcabinet is charged with monitoring the Olmstead Plan and assuring that the goals are being achieved. Mike Tessneer will serve as the state agency compliance officer and Darlene Zangara will be responsible for community engagement.

Why focus on measurable goals?

Tingeral referred to the integration mandate in the Americans with Disabilities Act and related Department of Justice guidance, and elements in the Jensen Settlement Agreement that are providing guidance regarding implementation of the Olmstead Plan.

The 33 measurable goals serve as a dashboard for determining actions that make a difference the lives of people with disabilities. We won't touch all aspects of people's lives but we will touch the big issues. This will provide us with a basis for quality assurance and accountability.

What are our challenges?

Tingeral recognizes that the Olmstead Plan is big, very comprehensive, and involves a lot of cultural change. She said that thousands of people must embrace this change but that the Olmstead Plan has been used as a "boogeyman." Particularly during this past year, it's been convenient for some parties to make the Olmstead Plan a boogeyman. As a result, a lot of myths and miscommunications about what the Plan actually is have been created. We have to now work at removing those.

There are also a high number of challenges facing people both with and without disabilities. About 600,000 Minnesotans are paying more than 30% of their income on housing. Affordable housing is not an entitlement; however, the ownership and rental property markets are getting tighter, and the impact is most felt by people with disabilities.

How to achieve change.

Tingerthal said that the focus has to be on priority items, those items where the needle of change and improvement is most within reach. She added that we have to understand that gains can be made. We have to craft and align messages that can be used to identify and recruit key opinion leaders, formulate common causes on issues that are shared across agencies, and bring ideas to the Subcabinet. There have to be compelling and motivating reasons for change.

Role of the Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO)

The OIO's role is in the areas of quality assurance and accountability, the quality of life survey, community engagement, assuring consistency in communications, and dispute resolution routing.

Questions and comments from Council members included the following:

1. Quilleash said he's been watching the planning process. Now with 33 goals, how will we know when a goal is met and what happens if a goal is not met? There should be consequences for failing to meet the goals.

Tingerthal said that both the Subcabinet and the OIO will be monitoring along the way. If goals are not being met, we will talk with the agency about changing course and discuss with the respective agency commissioner about how to get back on track.

2. Megan asked about resources and how those are integrated into the goals and objectives.

Tingerthal said a rationale has been built in about how realistic it is to meet the goals and funding that might be needed. She added that this does not always mean more funding but how can existing funding be used in a different way. Writing a check may be easy but we have to look at how can we achieve the goals and do we have the necessary resources to do so.

3. Stern commented on the need to integrate schools with true inclusion; attitudes won't change until we start there.
4. In response to Reedy's question about any pushback, Tingerthal said "absolutely." It's human nature to resist change and that's why we're putting so

many of our resources here. The majority of people don't understand that changes are in their self interest. We have to convince more people about their self interest.

5. In response to Morrissey's question about how the goals will be monitored, Tingerthal said this will be addressed in work plans that will be written by the people in the agencies who are charged with implementation. Mike Tessneer will be monitoring the work plans and the Subcabinet will be reviewing

Tingerall added that we need to embed accountability in each agency and believes that progress has been on the goals in the past months.

Hoffman thanked Tingerthal for her presentation, adding that she is a "breath of fresh air." He serves on the Health and Human Services Committee and housing is part of the Committee's work.

Wieck said that we have not had a group of state agency commissioners sit down and discuss disability issues since 1984.

Before starting the business portion of the Council meeting, Hoffman asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Mary O'Hara Anderson who died on June 25, 2015. She lived her life always thinking first of people with disabilities, wanting to make their lives easier, assuring that services and resources that should be in place were actually there.

One of the many issues she pursued and one that she always wanted to talk about was accessible parking, and the fine that was ultimately set for violations. She started out with a \$500 fine for violations that was negotiated down to \$200, after which she said she would have been happy with a \$50 fine

II INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hoffman asked for approval of the Agenda.

MOTION: Reedy moved, seconded by Smith to approve the Agenda. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 3, 2015

Hoffman asked for approval of the Minutes as written for June 3, 2015.

The Minutes for June 3, 2015 were approved by consensus.

V CHAIR'S REPORT

Hoffman said that he has always seen the Council as an active advocacy force. He then shared some of his background. In 2001, he served on the Interagency Coordinating Council and referred to that as a humbling experience. In that capacity, he was able to advise and assist the United States Department of Education about early childhood education, and had a role in supporting those programs.

After being asked about Governor Ventura, the next statements were favorable comments about Partners in Policymaking.

Hoffman also emphasized the importance of information and education in working with elected officials and other policymakers, and the difference between authority and governance – those individuals who have the authority to make the policy decisions verses those who govern.

VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A. Proposal for Customer Research Studies

Smith reported that the Committee reviewed and evaluated a proposal submitted by MarketResponse International for Customer Research studies, and will be recommending its approval.

She asked members to review the Conflict of Interest Policy and, if they don't have a conflict with this business, to sign the Conflict of Interest Form before voting on the proposal.

MOTION: Hoffman moved, seconded by Reedy and Smith, to approve the proposal submitted by MarketResponse International for Customer Research studies. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

A PowerPoint was prepared with each of the grant areas, the goal contained in the Five Year State Plan, and the allocation recommendation.

B. Grant Allocations for FFY 2016

Smith said that the Committee also made recommendations for grant allocations for FFY 2016. Each recommendation will be presented separately so if anyone has a conflict, abstentions can be recorded.

A PowerPoint was prepared with each of the grant areas, the goal contained in the Five Year State Plan, and the allocation recommendation.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 120,000** be allocated for **Self Advocacy**. Stern seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Bartolic moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 210,000** be allocated for **Partners in Policymaking, Graduate Workshops, and Follow Along Activities**. Kloos seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Bailey, Bottelson, Breit, Morrissey, Quilleash, Reedy, Simenstad, Smith, Stern, and Ware abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 40,000** be allocated for **Cultural Outreach**. Reedy seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 80,000** be allocated for **Employment**. Stern seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Quilleash abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 20,000** be allocated for **Training Conferences**. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 178,572** be allocated for **Publications, EGS/Websites, and Online Learning**. Simenstad seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Quilleash abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 50,000** be allocated for **Customer Research**. Breit seconded. Motion carried;

there were no dissenting votes or abstentions

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 20,000** be allocated for **Quality Improvement**. Reedy seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Quilleash abstained.

C Reaffirm Five Year State Plan Strategies and Goals for FFY 2015

Smith said that the Council's Five Year State Plan goals and objectives need to be reaffirmed or updated on an annual basis. No changes are being recommended for FFY 2016.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to reaffirm the current Five Year State Plan strategies and goals for FFY 2016, seconded by Breit. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Reedy reported that some of the Committee's discussion was about the Olmstead Plan. Members want to take an active role with policymakers about the Plan and suggestions were made about how to improve the Plan. Reedy added that we want to be the "squeaky wheel."

Ware noted that legislative issues for the 2016 legislative session were also discussed. The topics were posted on the walls in the room for Council review.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

1. The June "Moment in Disability History" includes reflections of some of the key leaders who worked to assure passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The July "Moment in Disability History" features President George Herbert Walker Bush's speech at the signing ceremony of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
2. A survey of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed this past year to determine the impact of the program on the lives of graduates as well as the impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The results of the survey led to the creation of the publication *Partners in Policymaking® Changing Lives. Changing Policies.*

3. The Council received the Hervey Wilbur Award for Historic Preservation for the *Parallels in Time* products and *With An Eye to the Past*. The award available for the Council's review.
4. A Proclamation, The Americans with Disabilities Act, 2015, was issued by President Barack Obama for the 25th Anniversary of the ADA. A framed copy was available for the Council's review.
5. The Council's purpose and responsibilities, as contained in the DD Act, were presented:
 - a. Council purpose:
 - 1) Engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities;
 - 2) These activities should contribute to a coordinated, consumer and family centered, consumer and family directed, comprehensive system of services, supports, and other assistance;
 - 3) To enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise independence, self determination, productivity, integration and inclusion (IPSII); these are the Council's federal outcomes.
 - b. Council responsibilities:
 - 1) Serve as an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities;
 - 2) Develop and submit a Five Year State Plan;
 - 3) Annually review goals and determine customer satisfaction;
 - 4) Implement the State Plan;

- 5) Review the designated state agency;
 - 6) Submit federal reports;
 - 7) Prepare and approve a budget;
 - 8) Recruit and hire an executive director consistent with state law.
6. Council appointments have been finalized. Leadership for the two committees have been named – Smith (Chair) and Stern (Vice Chair) for the Grant Review Committee; and Ware (Chair) and Reedy (Vice Chair) for the Public Policy Committee.

Council Co-Vice Chairs are Ashley Bailey and Alex Bartolic.

7. Followup actions:
- a. A total of \$200,000 was appropriated for a Centralized Accommodations Fund; the Department of Administration will manage the Fund.
 - b. Commissioner Jesson found \$ 46,000 in funds to support a part time North Star Fellow;
8. The Olmstead Subcabinet and Executive Committee have met several times. Magistrate Judge Becky Thorson is mediating sessions regarding rewriting the Olmstead Plan; a revision is in process and must be submitted to the Court by August 10, 2015.
9. Two publications have been released - *Partners in Policymaking® Changing Lives. Changing Policies* and *The Americans with Disabilities Act: Perspectives on the 25th Anniversary*.
10. ADA Anniversary Events (photos were available):
- a. The mobile Disability Rights Museum, sponsored by the US Business Leadership Network, was parked outside of the Smithsonian; the Council donated several images. The mobile Museum will be traveling cross country.

- b. The ADA Road to Freedom bus also rolled into the Smithsonian for the celebration.
 - c. The White House Champions of Change ceremony honored nine individuals. That event was held on July 27, 2015.
 - d. The Kennedy Center held several events. Selected pieces from the Very Special Arts (VSA) collection were on display for VSA's 40th Anniversary.
11. A timeline of items that need to be completed for the Five Year State Plan was prepared and presented.
- MOTION:** Bailey moved, seconded by Reedy to approve the Five Year State Plan timeline. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.
- 12 Management Analysis and Development is preparing the Comprehensive Review and Analysis section of the State Plan; this will be presented at the October Council meeting. All grant recipients will also make presentations at the October Council meeting.

The Council's 45th Anniversary is October 2016.

Hoffman requested any words of wisdom as we continue the State Plan planning process. He also asked that Council members contact him through Christopher Vaaler, his legislative assistant, by phone or email.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Hoffman asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director