

Subcabinet Meeting: Meeting Minutes

Date: October 24, 2022, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom online meeting platform

Call to Order

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) began the meeting, welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending.

Agenda Review

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) began the agenda review. The agenda consisted of Approval of July 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Engagement, a Discussion and Review of Plan Recommendations, and a Progress Report on the Workgroups.

Attendance

Subcabinet Members

- Jodi Harpstead, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Bud Rosenfield, Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- Ryan Baumtrog, Minnesota Housing (MHFA)
- Nancy Daubenberger, Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Evan Rowe, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Larry Herke, Department of Veteran's Affairs (MDVA)
- Colleen Wieck, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)

Subcabinet Designees

- Dee Torgerson, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Lisa-Harrison Hadler, Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)

- Mary Manning, Department of Health (MDH)
- Dan Baker, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Curtis Shanklin, Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Paul Williams, Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
- Wendy Wulf, Metropolitan Council (MetC)

Other State Agency Staff

- John Patterson, Minnesota Housing (MHFA)
- Dan Kitzberger, Minnesota Housing (MHFA)
- Tom Delaney, Department of Education (MDE)
- Sheila Holbrook-White (MetC)
- Kristie Billiar (DOT)
- Gloria Smith (DHS)
- Jolene Juhl (DHS)
- Holly Andersen (MDE)

Workgroup Members

- Kathy Jo Ware (Workgroup Member)
- Laura Andert (Workgroup Member)
- David Christianson (Workgroup Member)
- Eugene Rossum (Workgroup Member)
- Katrinna Dexter (Workgroup Member)
- Lindsay Alexander (Workgroup Member)
- Kellie Schmidt (Workgroup Member)
- Brian Abery (Workgroup Member)

OIO Staff

- Shelley Madore (OIO)
- Diane Doolittle (OIO)
- Caitlin Arreola (OIO)
- Chloe Ahlf (OIO)
- Rilyn Eischens (OIO)
- Madilyne Wegener (OIO)
- Mike Tessneer (OIO)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Action: Approve July 25, 2022, Subcabinet Meeting Minutes

Motion – Baumtrog. Second – Wulff

In favor: Roll call vote was taken with 9 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.

- MHFA - Aye
- DHS – Aye
- DEED – Aye
- DOT - Aye
- DOC – Aye
- MDVA – Aye
- MetC - Aye
- OMHDD – Aye
- GCDD – Aye

Commissioner Engagement

The Olmstead Implementation Office shared a short video highlighting three panelists from the Lunch and Learn event on September 28, 2022. This was the fourth event four-part series co-hosted with DHS and the Task Force on Eliminating Subminimum Wage. Chloe Ahlf (OIO) presented this information and discussed the video. Three panelists with varying disabilities moved from subminimum wage employment to competitive, integrated employment customized to their needs. The three panelists were Josh Haug, Erik Marschel, and Karli Harguth.

The full-length video is available here: [Lunch and Learn Panel Discussion: What Employment Looks Like For Me - YouTube](#).

Discussion and Review of Plan Recommendations

Overview

Curtis Shanklin (DOC) introduced this agenda item. He thanked Subcabinet and Leadership Forum members, OIO, and other support staff for their help on the proposals. Two proposals were presented from Minnesota Housing and the Minnesota Department of Education.

- The Department of Education (MDE) and Minnesota Housing gave 15-minute presentations of their proposals.
- Each presentation addresses the following items:
 - How it impacts the lives of people with disabilities.
 - The connection to the Olmstead Plan.
 - The cross-agency collaboration necessary to achieve the goal.
 - How the proposal can be measured and monitored.

Department of Education Proposal Presentation – Tom Delaney, MDE

- Overview of Proposal:
 - MDE wants to provide specific targeted support for implementing effective practices in secondary transition programs for students with disabilities ages 18 through 21.
 - MDE will make two-year grants available to 20+ school districts, charter schools, or tribal schools to practice life skills and vocational skills instruction.

- Effective life and vocational skills instruction practices are listed along with implementation resources at the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) at transitionta.org and the Youth in Transition Toolkit in Minnesota's Disability Hub at disabilityhubmn.org/for-professionals/youth-in-transition.
- The grantee school districts will receive combined training, coaching, and implementation supports from MDE, DEED, and DHS through E1MN services.
 - The grantee school districts' training includes Employee Capacity Building Cohort (training, coaching, and self-determination) and the Disability Hub (Youth in Transition Toolkit and additional services).
- The grants provided will do two things that result in better outcomes from life and vocational skills instruction for 18- to 21-year-old students with disabilities.
 - Support the use of effective and evidence-based life and vocational skills instruction.
 - Support consistent and reliable life and vocational skills in different parts of the state and eventually statewide.
- The connection to the Olmstead Plan:
 - 18 to 21 is an essential time of life, growth, and change for students with disabilities to use self-determination to find a place to learn, live, and work in their communities.
 - Working to ensure students consistently and reliably receive life and vocational skills instruction that is evidence-based and effective helps students:
 - Learn and live in more inclusive settings in their communities.
 - Supports students in using self-determination to get the quality of life they want.
 - The proposal connects to the Olmstead Plan priorities and goals for education in the most integrated setting, competitive integrated employment, person-centered planning, and outcomes after high school for students with disabilities.
- How the proposal will be measured and monitored to ensure equity:
 - Effort – What is being implemented? By how many? For how many? For all subgroups?
 - Which students are receiving the efforts, and which ones are not?
 - Fidelity – How well is it being implemented? All components? By all providers? For all subgroups?
 - Are some components being implemented by staff and others are not?
 - Outcomes – Do all students improve measures of:
 - Independent living skills.
 - Vocational skills.
 - Self-determination.
 - Wages and competitive integrated employment.
- This will happen through:
 - Annual school goal setting and implementation planning.
 - School training and coaching.
 - Annual local and state evaluation and improvement planning.
- How are individual choice and person-centered practices addressed?
 - Individual choice and person-centered practices are components of the Youth in Transition framework in the Disability Hub and the Employment Capacity Building Cohort (ECBC) for grantees.
 - The Youth in Transition Framework at Disability Hub includes the Youth Planning Process in which the youth and their support team decide which team member will take the lead in

assisting the youth in addressing each prioritized need from a self-assessment of strengths and needs.

- MDE can support community teams to implement person-centered planning through the ECBC.
- MDE is also exploring the school and team use of self-determination measures in the ECBC.

Discussion and Questions

There were no questions or discussions for this presentation.

Minnesota Housing Proposal Presentation – Dan Kitzberger, MHFA

- Overview of the Proposal:
 - The housing proposal has two components. The first is to increase access to permanent, affordable housing for people with disabilities who live in segregated settings and are supported by the Department of Human Services or the Department of Corrections. Those are the two populations looked at in this proposal.
 - The other component is to ensure coordinated support services are in place to help people successfully transition from their current setting into the housing of their choice, in a location of their choice, to the greatest extent possible.
- How the proposal will impact the lives of people with disabilities:
 - People will be able to move into permanent housing of their choice in the private market and will be able to do so with a rental assistance subsidy.
 - People will benefit from either having rental assistance or living in a housing unit that has rental assistance attached to it, and they'll pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent. They will be living in housing in the community.
 - People will be supported at the level they want during the housing search, the transition, and the post-move-in phases.
- Connection to the Olmstead Plan:
 - The proposal connects in two ways. The first is under transition services to increase the number of people who have moved from segregated settings into more integrated settings in the community.
 - Under housing and services, increase the number of people living in the most integrated housing of their choice where the rents are affordable to them.
- Cross-agency collaboration is necessary to achieve the goal:
 - Minnesota Housing
 - Contract with community-based organizations to administer the rental assistance program.
 - Contract with community-based organizations to administer the incentive program to recruit landlords from the private market.
 - Department of Human Services and Department of Corrections
 - Using an equity-based lens, identify people currently living in settings that want to move into permanent, affordable housing in the private market.
 - Either provide or contract with community-based organizations to provide support services to assist people in finding housing, moving into housing, and maintaining the housing.

- How the proposal can be measured and monitored to ensure equity:
 - Initial measurements may include, but are not limited to:
 - The number of people in settings identified and referred to this program.
 - The number of people with disabilities who move into an affordable housing unit in the community.
 - Initial monitoring may include, but is not limited to:
 - Self-assessments.
 - Housing stability.
 - Financial stability.
 - Initial equity assurance:
 - Prioritization of Indigenous, Black, and other People of Color.
- How are individual choice and person-centered practices addressed?
 - People can move into permanent housing, of their choice, in the private market.
 - This differs from some rental assistance (project-based) tied to a specific building.
 - People will access person-centered support to help them search for, move, and maintain their homes.
- DOC: Provide a funding mechanism to create more opportunities for choice for corrections system-involved individuals.
 - This type of rental assistance doesn't currently exist for this population.
 - Expand inclusive housing opportunities and services to create person-centered community systems.

Discussion and Questions

- Wendy Wulff (MetC) asked if this is like a Section 8 program and if that is what they are doing by making a Minnesota version of it. What's different about it if it's not?
 - Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) responded that Minnesota Housing currently administers, along with community partners, a couple of different state-based rental assistance programs. One is out of the Housing Trust Fund, and the other is called Bridges, for households with members with severe mental illness. This would fit into those programs and be modeled similarly to a housing choice voucher.
 - Wendy Wulff (MetC) said Met Council administers over 6,000 vouchers; they just had a presentation for people getting a new voucher after being on the waiting list. Only 60% of them are successful in finding a unit, and the other 40% are returning their vouchers. She discussed that there is a shortage of units and asked how Minnesota Housing will overcome these challenges.
 - Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) replied that Minnesota Housing is looking to provide incentives for landlords and work with the Department of Human Rights to address discrimination against people with vouchers.
 - Wendy Wulff (MetC) commented that ongoing support is key.
 - Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) discussed that Minnesota Housing had a pilot program for a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund over the past couple of years that has shown success.

- Ryan Baumtrog (MHFA) discussed Wendy Wulff’s comments and that they are essential to the proposal, particularly having access to units and working with landlords. Housing, DHS, and Corrections are partnering to work with landlords and accessibility to housing.
 - Dan Baker (DHS) commented that they have been thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with this project.
- Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) asked when Housing comes back with a proposal for the Olmstead Plan revision, are they talking about serving a certain number of people by a specific date, or are they going to work on that next?
 - Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) replied that current costs annually to provide rental assistance per household are known; however, the costs to serve new populations is not. Those costs will be determined before the legislative session begins. They are projecting about 1,000 households once they are at scale.
- Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) asked a followed-up question to Tom Delaney (MDE) regarding the education proposal. Did he have a projection of the number of students who would be served and how long it would take to implement the full program?
 - Tom Delaney (MDE) replied that it relies on the number of school systems and community partners prepared to implement the proposal. At MDE, they have measures developed through the District Capacity Assessment tool, which evaluates school district resources and ability to implement new programming.
- Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) commented about more collaboration needed between state agencies to take existing ideas and share them across agencies to develop proposals focused on those that have been underserved. He hopes the Housing proposal will include reaching out to existing landlords and developers to focus on how to develop disability-focused housing that connects to housing accessibility, affordability, and services and not viewing disability as something to address at the end of the project but at the beginning.
 - Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) commented that the cross-agency work and all the Subcabinets in the Walz administration work to tackle problems together. She also appreciated the comments from Bud (Rosenfield) and his continued efforts to push the agencies to “shoot for the moon.”
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) discussed the partnership between agencies and how the collaboration with other agency partners has been appreciated. He also explained how the collaboration has led to making ideas more intentional and reaching significant populations, especially people with disabilities transitioning from the Department of Corrections to a place to live in the community.
- Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) commented that these are inspiring cross-agency ideas and was very pleased with the quick progress in developing the proposals and thanked the Leadership Forum members.

Progress Report on the Workgroups

This item was presented by Diane Doolittle, workgroup manager for the Olmstead Implementation Office. Diane presented on the progress of the Workgroup’s second cohort.

Member Demographics:

- There are 70 Workgroup members.
- The members represent 18 Minnesota counties.
- Twenty-one members self-identify as persons with disabilities vs. seven during the first cohort.
 - The target for the cohort was to have 50% who self-identify as people with disabilities.
 - The members are not required to self-identify.
- Members include:
 - Persons with Disabilities.
 - Parents/Advocates.
 - Community Partners.
 - State Staff.

New Outreach Strategies:

- External Community Outreach Plan Launch
 - Connecting with external stakeholders and networking to develop public awareness through social media and cross-organization engagement. This will increase public participation in Workgroups, public engagement activities, and committees to help OIO reach more people with disabilities.
 - Collaborate with Subcabinet agencies to host events on disability-related issues involving the Minnesota Olmstead Plan.
- The Workgroups News and Views Newsletter launched in September.
- Recent Events:
 - Community Input Events
 - Workforce Shortage and People with Disabilities
 - October 11, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
 - Affordable, Safe, and Accessible Housing
 - October 12, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
 - On October 26, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., OIO will sponsor a Lunch and Learn event about the E1MN State partnership to advance employment-first outcomes.

Discussion and Questions

There were no questions or discussions.

Upcoming Subcabinet Meeting

- January 23, 2023 – 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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