

Leadership Forum: Meeting Minutes (unapproved)

Date: March 31, 2022 at 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom online meeting platform

Call to Order

Co-chair Curtis Shanklin (DOC) began the meeting, welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending. Mr. Shanklin reviewed the agenda and discussed its items.

Attendance

Leadership Forum members

- Lisa Harrison-Hadler, Co-Chair, Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- Curtis Shanklin, Co-Chair, Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Dan Baker, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Scott Beutel, Department of Human Rights (MDHR)
- Bud Rosenfield, Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- Dave Bellefeuille, Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
- Chris McVey, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Colleen Wieck, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)
- Tim Henkel, Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council

Designees

- Robyn Widley, Department of Education (MDE)
- Dee Torgerson, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Guests

- Shelley Madore (OIO)
- Rosalie Vollmar (OIO)
- Diane Doolittle (OIO)
- Chloe Ahlf (OIO)
- Caitlin Arreola (OIO)
- Mike Tessneer (OIO)
- John Patterson (MHFA)

- Kate Erickson (DOC)
- Gloria Smith (DHS)
- Katrinna Dexter (DOC)
- Daniel Gulya (Guest)
- Tom Delaney (MDE)
- Holly Andersen (MDE)
- Kristie Billiar (DOT)
- Heidi Hamilton (DHS)
- Michelle Chmielewski (workgroup member)

Agenda Review

Co-chair Curtis Shanklin (DOC) began the agenda review. The agenda consisted of approving the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes, accepting the February Quarterly Report, and reviewing draft plan amendments.

Approval of Minutes

Motion

Approve December 6, 2021, Leadership Forum Meeting Minutes.

Action: Motion – Wieck. Second – Beutel.

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

- DHS – Aye
- DEED - Aye
- MDHR – Aye
- MDE - Aye
- OMHDD – Aye
- DOT – Aye
- MDVA – Aye
- DOC – Aye
- GCDD – Aye

Reports

Director's Report

Shelley Madore (OIO) presented the director's report for the Minnesota Olmstead Implementation Office. OIO has seen a tremendous increase in the number of engagement opportunities. At the next Leadership Forum meeting, OIO will take time to better explain the engagement measures and how they are measuring against

other industry performance numbers. One reason there is an increase in engagement is that many state agencies are resharing posts and encouraging activity on engagement events.

OIO also highlighted their first Lunch and Learn event on March 30, 2022. The Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor had asked OIO to promote an event on serving on boards and commissions. The event had 43 registrants and was co-hosted by a staff member in the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and Dr. Nerita Hughes, chair of the Minnesotans of African Heritage Council. A video of the meeting will be posted on OIO's website.

Workgroups Update

Diane Doolittle (OIO) presented a workgroup update. Workgroups met on December 8, 2021, for a leads meeting to mark six months of meeting as workgroups. It was an opportunity for Commissioner Ho to provide best wishes and congratulate the members. Group members also set goals for the remainder of the year.

The workgroups have now been meeting for a total of nine months. The workgroups have provided an opportunity to get input from the community and discuss successes and processes.

- Data Collection workgroup highlighted that a survey was created to develop an inventory of available data sets in each agency.
- The Prevention of Abuse and Neglect workgroup has used surveys and community input events to help narrow down the recommendations to the top five areas to address prevention and education in the community.
- The Workforce Shortage and People with Disabilities Workgroup had a community input event on February 23, 2022. They continue to use survey outreach to learn more on how to support employment for people with disabilities.
- The Affordable, Safe, and Accessible Housing Workgroup launched a survey to get information from the public. There were 80 respondents. They determined the top three priorities were: locating available housing, financial assistance to pay rent, and housing to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and other assistive technology.
- The Juvenile Justice and Special Education Workgroup engaged with the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota to help determine data that has already been compiled to develop recommendations to the Leadership Forum on next steps.

The next steps for workgroups are to finalize their recommendations in April 2022 and then present them to the Leadership Forum on May 23, 2022. Those approved recommendations will be presented at the Subcabinet Meeting on July 25, 2022.

Agenda Items

Review of February 2022 Quarterly Report

There was no formal presentation of the February Quarterly Report. Leadership Forum members received the report in pre-meeting materials. Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) began the review by discussing the way the reports are different from agency to agency and how terminology can vary between the agencies.

Mr. Rosenfield noted the need to address the readability and flow of the report especially with members of the public. He also discussed the need for baselines to be reviewed. For example, the report's focus shifts, and the use of both "integrated settings" and "least restrictive settings" could be confusing. He noted it is very difficult

for the public to know what is being accomplished and how underlying principles like person-centered planning and informed choice are included.

Colleen Wieck (GCDD) suggested setting up another meeting to have a discussion on making the report more user-friendly.

Approve February 2022 Quarterly Report

Action: Motion – Baker. Second – McVey.

In favor: Roll call vote was taken with 10 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carries.

- DHS – Aye
- DEED - Aye
- MDHR – Aye
- MDE - Aye
- OMHDD – Aye
- DOT – Aye
- MDVA – Aye
- DOC – Aye
- GCDD – Aye
- MetC - Aye

Plan Amendments

Transition Services Goal One

The language was changed to “informed choice” based on comments from other Leadership Forum members. A new strategy was added in March to plan for and begin the development of informed choice training for the agencies. This includes requirements for meeting the individual’s needs, tools, information, and opportunities. This will help the person understand their options. A plan for including these milestones will be developed by March 31, 2023. This is a way to promote a more person-centered planning process with additional monitoring and compliance.

Lisa Harrison-Hadler (OMHDD) noted that the use of person-centered protocols is being documented but asked how they are impacting people and impacting the quality of life. Ms. Harrison-Hadler (OMHDD) asked if the person-centered plans, once generated, result in the individual being able to make major life decisions? Mr. Baker responded that this would be addressed with the My Move Plan, which is being rethought and piloted during the next year.

Mr. Rosenfield asked how they came up with the March 31, 2023, date and if it was possible to get it done earlier. Mr. Baker said the agency is focusing on staffing new positions to support this work.

Housing and Services Goal One

DHS and Minnesota Housing are extending this goal for two more years and will look at the information regarding informed choice and race and ethnicity as it relates to housing. Additional changes include improving access to Housing Stabilization Services through Medical Assistance. This includes implementing the moving

expenses option by December 31, 2022, and developing resources and making them available on the HB 101 website.

Mr. Baker linked to the HB 101 website, Moving Expenses Option A: <https://mn.hb101.org/a/42/a5.htm>. He also referenced Housing Stabilization Services A: <https://mn.hb101.org/a/47>.

Ms. Wieck asked if DHS is setting up a tracking system for monitoring Housing Stabilization Services. Mr. Baker replied that they will collaborate with Minnesota Housing to report progress.

Mr. Rosenfield asked how DHS will focus on people with disabilities as opposed to people who are homeless or experiencing homelessness and using that service. Mr. Baker responded DHS can investigate the idea of more generic services.

Ms. Lisa Harrison-Hadler commented that one barrier to integrated housing is related to workforce support staff shortage. Mr. Baker responded that staffing is one of the primary issues for DHS. He also provided a link to the DHS website: <https://mn.gov/dhs/partners-and-providers/news-initiatives-reports-workgroups/long-term-services-and-supports/workforce>.

Employment Goal Two

Chris McVey (DEED) presented this item. DEED proposed a change to combine the Medicaid-funded programs with Employment First Minnesota efforts by June 30, 2024. A baseline will be established that includes the number of individuals served on a Medicaid waiver. DEED wants to ensure people who are earning subminimum wages can provide input about their interest in working in competitive, integrated employment.

Ms. Harrison-Hadler asked what are the efforts to minimize or eliminate subminimum wage?

- Ms. McVey (DEED) responded that DEED and DHS are already helping Medicaid Waiver recipients learn about their options for competitive employment.
- Ms. McVey (DEED) noted that the Vocational Rehabilitation agency exists to help people with disabilities prepare and plan for, obtain, maintain, and advance in competitive, integrated employment. DEED has increased its outreach to transition age students.
- Ms. Wieck (GCDD) asked when this new process will be implemented and if the Centers for Independent Living staff will be tracking this information?
- Ms. McVey (DEED) DEED will be tracking individuals who want competitive, integrated employment based on their current annual meetings. DEED is partnering with DHS and State Services for the Blind (SSB).

Employment Goal Three

- Tom Delaney (MDE) clarified some information for Employment Goal Three. The goal focuses on the Employment Capacity Building Cohort (ECBC). There are 31 ECBC community teams that include school districts, vocational rehabilitation, and case managers. This ensures students with cognitive disabilities between the ages of 19 and 21 have more workplace experiences and opportunities for competitive, integrated employment.

Department of Corrections

Kate Erickson (DOC) reviewed the draft amendment. The first draft amendment is focused on a comprehensive review of policies and practices as well as improvement related to person-centeredness, inclusivity, accessibility, and equity. DOC is looking to do an equity review of policies.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Alternate forms of this document

To request alternate formats of this document, please email mnolmsteadplan@state.mn.us.