

Subcabinet Meeting: Meeting Minutes

Date: July 25, 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.

Attendance

Subcabinet Members

- Jodi Harpstead, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Steve Grove, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Nancy Daubenberger, Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Paul Schnell, Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Jan Malcolm, Department of Health (MDH)
- Heather Mueller, Department of Education (MDE)
- Larry Herke, Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA)
- Bud Rosenfield, Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- Colleen Wieck, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)

Designees

- Curtis Shanklin, Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Ryan Baumtrog, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)
- Scott Beutel, Department of Human Rights (MDHR)
- Wendy Wulff, Metropolitan Council (MetC)
- Evan Rowe, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

Guests

- Shelley Madore (OIO)
- Rosalie Vollmar (OIO)
- Diane Doolittle (OIO)
- Chloe Ahlf (OIO)
- Caitlin Arreola (OIO)
- Madilyne Wegener (OIO)
- Rilyn Eischens (OIO)
- Mike Tessneer (OIO)
- John Patterson (MHFA)
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler (OMHDD)
- Dee Torgerson (DEED)
- Dan Baker (DHS)
- Gloria Smith (DHS)
- Heidi Hamilton (DHS)
- Kristie Billiar (DOT)
- Gerri Sutton (MetC)
- Mary Manning (MDH)
- Jenna Lehti (DPS)
- Sheila Holbrook-White (MetC)
- Paul Williams (MDVA)
- Kate Weeks (DPS)

Agenda Review

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) began the agenda review. The agenda consisted of Approval of June 6, 2022, Meeting Minutes, Approval of the revision to the Leadership Forum Charter, and discussion about the Plan.

Approve June 6, 2022, Subcabinet Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion – Wulff. Second – Wieck.

In favor: Roll call vote was taken with 11 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.

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

Revisions to the Leadership Forum Charter

Curtis Shanklin (DOC) presented this agenda item. The discussion focused on the revisions made to the Leadership Forum Charter, specifically refining the measurable goal process.

The Leadership Forum will refine the measurable goal process to include the following:

- Each measurable goal will provide the overall number of people in the pool of individuals who may be impacted. These numbers will be reviewed and updated annually.
- Each measurable goal will be reported regarding national benchmarks. In instances where there may not be clear national benchmarks, the agency will develop proxy measures that reasonably compare performance at a national level.
- Establish a process that identifies measurable goals that are consistently underperforming or need to set a higher level of performance.

Discussion and Questions:

- Wendy Wulff (MetC) discussed having more meaningful goals and explained they are currently focusing on wheelchair pass-ups which means that a bus is too full to accept a wheelchair rider.
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) replied that meaningful goals were something the Leadership Forum Charter revision addresses. He discussed moving forward every agency needed to help communicate areas where more information was needed to develop the “how” to improve the goals to include these new standards. He added that learning about these challenges will help to develop the right process to measure said goals.
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler (OMHDD) noted they kept in mind having flexibility when it came to the “how.”

Approve revisions to the Leadership Forum Charter

Action: Motion – Malcolm. Second – Herke.

In favor: Roll call vote was taken with 12 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.

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

Discussion About the Future of the Plan

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) began the discussion about the future vision of the Plan. She explained that at the previous Subcabinet Meeting, they asked commissioners what agencies would do to help transform the lives of people with disabilities with the \$10 billion surplus opportunity. She asked the Subcabinet Members, “What is the biggest possibility you can see for your work for Minnesota’s people with disabilities over the next four years?”

- Commissioner Harpstead commented that DHS wants to see a significant increase in the ability to support people with disabilities in independent living settings.
- Commissioner Malcolm (MDH) discussed collecting data differently on people with disabilities because it is an area that is lacking in understanding where the challenges and opportunities are.
- Commissioner Mueller (MDE) noted looking at education policies for students through the age of 22. MDE is also looking at providing consistent transition service programs in every district across the state.
- Assistant Commissioner Scott Beutel (MDHR) talked about continuing to provide civil rights protections and looking to expand that service. He explained disability cases make up 30-35%.
- Assistant Commissioner Ryan Baumtrog (MHFA) discussed affordable and accessible housing. Housing is thinking about ways more dollars could be helpful, whether making physical improvements or increasing accessibility. The idea is to “go big” and expand services.
- Commissioner Daubenberger (DOT) discussed trying to bridge the gap between the needs for nonemergency medical transportation and expanding public transit, including hours of service.
- Commissioner Herke (MDVA) explained the two areas are helping disabled veterans at home in need of caregivers and providing affordable housing for veterans.
- Evan Rowe (DEED) discussed the focus on competitive, integrated employment. He explained that pieces from other agencies, such as transportation, are key in working together to make this possible.
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) discussed being intentional about how resources are provided to people in custody with disabilities. He explained the importance of being person-centered and ensuring they provide a process allowing them to conduct complete assessments of those who come into custody. He also discussed the importance of collecting data and improving efforts. He talked about partnering with agencies and collaborating on housing, employment, and other areas.
- Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) discussed that it is essential to take time to evaluate whether all the moving parts are working and going in the right direction. He also explained that, unlike other state agencies, the OMHDD does not create or operate services and programs such as person-centeredness. However, they focus more on advocacy. He talked about translating big picture ideas into detailed working, trackable goals for the Plan. OMHDD went through a thorough critique of the current plan and created a document based on those recommendations. You can view the document as an attachment below.
- He also discussed three main areas in the Plan, including education, employment, and housing, and how they are interconnected.
- Colleen Wieck (GCDD) said the big aspirational goals are self-determination, self-advocacy, learning rights, and starting as early as possible on that path. She said activities related to integration and inclusion would be welcomed.

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) asked Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) if he had a big, aspirational goal for people with disabilities in Minnesota.

- Bud Rosenfield (OMDHH) responded that self-direction should be infused throughout all service programs. He explained he would focus on using self-direction and a more robust informed choice process to deal with getting people more individualized supports that they control and use to get the results they want.

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) asked members where they saw some areas they could work between agencies.

- Commissioner Daubenberger (DOT) talked about the parallels between housing and transportation. She explained how MnDOT addresses homelessness and highway encampments and ensures that people facing homelessness are connected with the services they need.
- Commissioner Grove (DEED) discussed the record-breaking lowest unemployment rate set in the modern history of any other state. He talked about the importance of partnering and working together to provide job opportunities to people with disabilities. He discussed working with the job market and businesses to create new opportunities. DEED is also trying to raise awareness of services and support networks.
- Commissioner Malcolm (MDH) explained that one of the best things to do to improve the health of people with disabilities is for them to be employed. She discussed the opportunity to focus on working with MNIT services on adaptive technologies that are fully accessible.
- Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) discussed the challenges and opportunities of working remotely while creating inclusive environments for people with disabilities. He explained the importance of having the infrastructure to pay for the equipment, accessibility software, and Internet connection. He also talked about connecting with clients around the state to allow them to participate in remote services.
- Commissioner Grove (DEED) said he believes this is a new trend we will see moving forward and the importance of this investment.
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) talked about the equity aspect. He explained that he thinks it's essential to not only focus on being person-centered but also youth and child-centered. These individuals may not have received the necessary resources or leadership to prepare them for the workforce. He said there is much room for overlap and collaboration among the agencies.
- Commissioner Mueller (MDE) discussed recognizing and thinking about things like opportunities for access to internships and apprenticeships while meeting the needs of students. She also talked about doing this in smaller settings because there are fewer intermediates or cooperatives.

Commissioner Harpstead (DHS) thanked the Subcabinet Members for their comments and discussion about the future vision of the Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

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