

OLMSTEAD COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2014
Great River Energy, Bismarck – 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Tami Ternes (co-chair), Governor Dalrymple's Office; Maggie Anderson, Department of Human Services; Teresa Larsen, Protection and Advocacy; Cheryl Hess, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Janis Cheney, AARP; Rep. Kylie Oversen (via phone), Darcy Andahl

Absent: Pamela Kolling, the Arc of ND; Scott Davis, ND Indian Affairs Commission; Rep. Gary Kreidt, Royce Schultze, Bismarck Center for Independent Living; Sen. Judy Lee

Others Present: Cheryl Fitzgerald, Carlotta McCleary, Tom Solberg, Russ Cusack, Susan Foerster, Deb Johnson, Geraldine Teevens, Karen Tescher, Susan Wagner, JoAnne Hoesel, Cindy Marihart, Jake Reuter, Beth Steffan, Amy Armstrong, Julie Schwab

Welcome

Introductions were made and sign-up sheets were distributed for attendance tracking and updates.

Review of June 10, 2014, Commission Meeting Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Call for Additions to the Agenda

Jake Reuter will provide additional agenda items on Money Follows the Person (MFP).

Presentation on ASPIRE Grant Program

Amy Armstrong, NDCPD, from Minot State University, gave a presentation on the ASPIRE Grant Program (see attached informational [sheet](#)). ASPIRE is a six-state consortium to implement the Department of Education's Promise Initiative, to advance the self-sufficiency of youth receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Amy asked members to share the information with staff and constituents to encourage the recruitment of young people and their families into the program. Recruitment will begin November 2014.

Adult-Student Transition Education Program (A-Step) was discussed. A-Step provides transition and post-secondary education programs for students with intellectual disabilities and gives students an opportunity to achieve their goals in a college environment.

Blending of the State Plan with the Policy Academy Work – Susan Wagner

The Commission was provided copies of the blended Olmstead State Plan and Olmstead Policy Academy sub-committee strategic plans. The decision was made to convene a small group of individuals to complete all remaining details on the plan and present it to full committee for approval. Those individuals offering to assist are: Teresa Larsen, Cheryl

Hess, Carlotta McCleary, Cindy Marihart, and Sue Foerster. Meetings will be scheduled in near future. The members of each Policy Academy sub-committee will also be convened to update the strategic plans. It was also recommended we include descriptions/definitions of services and programs with the Plan. A facilitator of the Policy Academy sub-committee on peer support is yet to be determined.

Update on CMS Final HCBS Rule – Karen Tescher

Karen gave a presentation on the ND Statewide HCBS [Transition Plan](#) and provided prepared [comments on the plan](#). Members were asked to provide any comments or recommendations to Karen.

Karen also provided information on the [rural mileage differential](#). More clients may receive services because of the higher reimbursement rate.

The new service of personal care with supervision is expected to be available by November 1.

Supported Employment – Russ Cusack

Russ discussed the work done as a result of the policy academy subcommittee on Supported Employment which defined Supported Employment and defined extended services.

Russ also discussed work completed through the Employment for People with Disabilities Committee. A survey will be completed of employment services offered by employment providers in ND to individuals with DD and what individuals are earning in various types of employment. The committee expressed concern about extended services reaching capacity in a couple of areas (TBI and other).

Under new federal VR guidelines, Supported Employment can now provide services for 24 months, instead of 18. More emphasis will be placed on Supported Employment for youth still in school and will increase the role of VR in transition. 15% (\$1.5 million) of VR federal grant will be spent on pre-employment services for youth aged 15-21 in school. Meetings will be scheduled with school districts to provide information and develop procedure. This effort ties in nicely with Olmstead work.

A summary of Russ's discussion can be found [here](#).

Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) Update – Sue Foerster

There are currently 64 ICF resident adults and 20 youth. Through the ID waiver, they are serving 13 in Grafton. There are two residents at NDSH and one is scheduled to go to Grand Forks and one to LSTC.

The goal for youth program is to serve 12 and provide 4 crisis beds. There are probable discharges of four youth with two moving to REM in Minot and two in apartment settings. School services are a challenge in some areas because of lack of special education staff.

The Centralized Project Committee meets to discuss potential projects. The Red River Foundation in Fargo has presented a project to build a home. Details will be sent to Tina Bay for first review then to executive management for final decision. Developmental Homes in Grand Forks is working on a four-room home project and the project will go through the same process mentioned above.

LSTC completed transition of five males to a new home in West Fargo and this came out of the project committee. Six individuals moved this summer to a new duplex and the builder of the home approached the LSTC about the idea.

LSTC met the goal to transition 65 individuals. Community services continue to grow and behavior analysts across the state are serving 300 individuals and young children with medical needs.

The downtown storefront trophy store is very successful. They will be taking over a thrift shop in Grafton too. Contract negotiations continue with Marvin Windows and they are looking for space off campus for this work.

There was discussion about the plans to expand the children's unit from 8 to 12 beds. Teresa indicated she remembers that the transition committee agreed to only 8 beds in this unit. Most of these children come from private community providers or foster care system and the children have many psychiatric and behavioral issues. The children have safety concerns and community providers are saying they cannot serve them. LSTC is working closely with DDPMs to place the children. Open Door is working on two four-bed homes for these children (FCO3).

Aging Services Division Update – Cindy Marihart

The Aging Services Division realigned staff effective November 1. Because of the realignment, staff effort was added for VAPS and for Ombudsman. Aging Services will also be moving towards a central intake for VAPS and there is a new on-line reporting and referral process.

Aging Services has a contract with NDSU to complete a study on what will engage and entice older adults to come to senior centers and if not, what older adults want in the community. The survey date has not been determined, but the contract is for two years. The State Plan on Aging is complete and Cindy will verify that it is placed on the website.

DOJ Case Update – Beth Steffan

Beth provided an update of the cases in Rhode Island and Oregon (see [summary](#)).

MFP Updates – Jake Reuter

Jake reported that 220 transitions have been made to date: 86 adults with ID, 2 children with ID, and 30 adults.

Jake continues to work with the nursing facilities regarding MFP and is scheduled to meet with the Long-Term Care Association. Jake is developing a process to apply across the state to educate people about MFP.

NDSU is coordinating the effort on the MFP Tribal Initiative. They are in the process of hiring a project coordinator and staff on each reservation. The initiative should be completely operational by September 2020.

MFP continues to increase the workforce efforts and is completing training with QSPs across the state and is also working with MABU on a workforce marketing campaign for caregiver job positions. Susan McNeil is also involved with the Dept. of Commerce workforce efforts.

The MFP sustainability needs to be submitted to CMS by April 2015 along with a five-year budget proposal. CMS will review between May-October 2015.

Housing continues to be a barrier for transitions and DHS continues to collaborate with all housing partners across the state. The North Dakota state housing staff were selected to be part of a national training program.

A summary of [Jake's presentation](#) is attached.