

THE NORTH DAKOTA OLMSTEAD COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
OCTOBER 18, 2022
Job Service North Dakota, Bismarck and Virtual via Teams

Members present: Scott Burlingame, Siobhan Deppa, Wallace Goulet, Julie Horntvedt, Senator Judy Lee, Representative Carlotta McCleary, Alisa Mitskog, Ryan Norrell, the Honorable Bruce Romanick.

Members Absent: Veronica Zietz

Others Present: Daniel Gulya, Carrie Berland, Mandy Dendy and Pam Mack from P&A, Matt Schwarz, Brittany Armstrong Hanson, Kirsten Dvorak, Carrie Varner, Rebecca Quinn, Michelle Woodcock, Carly Retterath, Jessica Villegas, April Johnson, Beth Larson-Steckler, Carl Young, Roxane Romanick, Jennifer Henderson, Jessica Dargis, Nicole Maddock, Holly Johnson, Katie Jo Armbrust, Elyse Olson, Anthony Kozojed, Toby Lunstad, Trevor Vannett.

Co-Chair Goulet called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

The agenda was approved as typed.

Approval of the July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. McCleary and seconded by Ms. Horntvedt. Mr. Gulya asked to change Brittany Hanson Armstrong to Brittany Armstrong Hanson. Corrections noted, the motion passed.

2023 Meeting Dates:

Mr. Gulya suggested that the quarterly meeting dates be moved to February, May, August and November for 2023, to not interfere with the 2023 legislative session.

The dates for next year are February 8, May 10, August 9 and November 8. The meetings will be at the Dakota Room inside ND Job Service.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. McCleary and seconded by Ms. Horntvedt, the motion passed.

Presentation on the new Juvenile Children in Need of Services (CHINS):

Ms. Villegas with ND Department of Human Services, CHINS unit supervisor. There are 7 CHINS specialist that cover the state of North Dakota. The CHINS program started on August 1, 2022 for children starting at 10 years of age that have one of the following behaviors: truancy, unruly, runaway or tobacco use. Ms. Villegas stated that the goal is to educate and empower parents, to connect the child and the family to services in the community. We focus on prevention, treatment and support for the youth. There have been nearly 500 referrals, with law enforcement being the biggest referral source.

Ms. McCleary asked about children with anxiety diagnosis that are not able to go to school. Ms. Villegas stated that they contact the schools to find a way to either do home schooling or virtual. Can the day be modified to help with the anxiety?

Ms. Woodcock asked if an IEP is required with the referral from a school. Ms. Villegas stated that if the school says there is an IEP they will accept that. They understand that the school can not send over the IEP without parental approval. If the school can send PowerSchool information that shows attendance or grades, that will be accepted as well.

Mr. Gulya asked when talking about referrals, you mentioned progress and success rate- what are the metrics that you used for that? Ms. Villegas stated that it is a very simple change list that is composed of different data points, including the name, age, race area and the reasoning behind the referral and a

documentation area for staff to put their engagement with the child. It is still a work in progress and we are getting a program built.

Interim Legislative Session Review:

Senator Lee stated that the Acute Psychiatric Committee and the Human Services Committee had meetings last week. The goal of the Acute Psychiatric Committee is to determine what the appropriate amount money or proposal might be to present to the legislative body in January for a new State Hospital. If you want more details, please go to the Legislative website. You can read the minutes, all the attachments and watch it virtually.

The status of the Department of Health and Human Services BH bed management system was discussed, and that it is up and running. What that means is that every day at a single point in time there will be a report from every facility that has behavioral health beds available. Now you will be able to reserve a bed if one is available. Senator Lee also stated that they also discussed the WHODAS score requirements being reduced so more individuals are now eligible for services. The Mental Health Registry for every Provider in North Dakota is up and running.

We heard reports on all the services for the program for individuals with developmental disabilities and autism.

53 counties were turned into 19 Human Service Zones.

Follow-up on ASD Inquiry:

Mr. Gulya stated that he had submitted additional data from Tina Bay from the DD Division, unfortunately it looks like it may take her some additional time to provide the numbers that we had asked for. There is followup with Heather Jenkins, but her schedule did not allow for her to speak to us until sometime after this meeting. I also contacted the NDACP about the statements by Jessica and Heather at the last meeting that DHS had problems placing people out of the LSTC. I invited NDACP to speak at this meeting, they essentially indicated that the

workforce struggles are the really integral part of why they are not able to accept more downstream needs for everyone. We can have further follow-up at the next meeting.

Strategic Planning- Annual Goals:

Mr. Gulya handed out the Strategic Plan and Annual Goals,

Provide Education	1. Provide timely public education on Olmstead-related issues via factsheets, letter to the editor, white paper, special event, newsletter, etc.	6 per year
Conduct research into issues such as service inequalities and barriers to integration	1. Develop position papers/fact sheets on the 6 areas identified in Executive Order 2018-5.1 2. Identify best practices for each of the areas to address barriers and share solutions	6 annual white papers
Collect/analyze public input, incorporate into work of the Olmstead Commission	1. Regular surveys assessing Olmstead commission impact and areas of future interest 2. Provide an annual report to the Governor, the OC, the general public detailing the work of the OC	Annual Annual
Receive and Respond to Directed Inquiries	1. Receive all inquiries, acknowledge, assess inquiries, gather background information, and present subject to the OC	Develop/revise guidelines for acceptance of inquiries
Promote inclusion and participation of persons with lived experience in policymaking	1. Identify individuals with lived experience and encourage them to apply for various public entities- councils, commissions, etc. 2. Recruit and charter permanent advisory group of persons with lived experience	2023 goal- 5
Create Awareness	1. Develop, coordinate, and provide 10 OC presentations 2. Meet with members of legislature, service providers, advocacy organizations to introduce yourself, discuss OC, answer questions.	Reach 100 people 10 meeting

Maintain a public presence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide information on OC issues to policymakers regularly and upon request // Develop and deliver information on OC related issues to policymaking bodies 2. Participate in workgroups and organizations that focus on HCBS and OC issues 	5 per year and as requested
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Motion:

A motion was made by Ms. McCleary and seconded by Mr. Burlingame, the motion passed.

Coordinator Updates:

Mr. Gulya has 4 points on the Olmstead Coordinator Update.

1st is Direct Care Professional Survey. Mr. Gulya stated that he is working along with the DD Council and the survey is being performed by the UND’s Bureau of Education Assessment. 656 responses have been sent out, that accounts for 11 to 13% of the DSP Workforce. Mr. Gulya stated that he spoke with Dr. Stupnisky at UND; they have the raw data and he is going over it with some the analysts and the Commission should have a copy fairly soon.

2nd Update is the Olmstead Revision Plan. Mr. Gulya stated that he is working with Technical Assistance Collaborative as a consultant to provide a systems assessment. They have been conducting a series of discussions with members of DHS and representatives from the Housing Finance Agency to get a picture for the systems assessment. They have also had a series of stakeholder listening sessions for persons with lived experiences, families and providers. Their goal is to have a systems assessment white paper provided to the Olmstead Commission by early December.

3rd Update, White Paper discussion on Housing and Transportation. Mr. Gulya stated that he met with Jennifer Henderson with the State Housing Forum and received copious amounts of information. With discussions with Jennifer and Jake Reuter, housing is a precedent condition to community inclusion and home and community-based services. If you don’t have a home to receive the services, its very difficult to opt for a non-institutional setting.

Transportation is another proposed focus. Trevor V. who has been here and other individuals with mobility impairments and others that do not present as mobility impaired have indicated that transportation for services is a challenge for them.

4th Update, Inquiries. Mr. Gulya stated that he has had one inquiry that involves confidential health information. Mr. Gulya would like to have an executive session or a subcommittee. A motion was made by Mr. Burlingame to form a subcommittee, seconded by Ms. McCleary. The motion passed to form a subcommittee.

Ms. McCleary, Ms. Deppa and Ms. Horntvedt have all volunteered for the subcommittee.

Public Comment:

Ms. Armstrong Hanson, I am here as a parent of multiple children with disabilities and also as part of the DD Council. In regards to the outside Advisory Council and representation, the Olmstead Commission doesn't have 50% representation of individuals with disabilities or their family members and it should be. I feel that the governor's office needs to address that the Commission needs to be balanced as best practice.

Ms. Maddock, parent of a child with a developmental disability. With transportation, I want to make sure that all ages are looked at. They brought a non-accessible van to come get my child to take him to daycare. They are also dropping kids off at the wrong locations. I know that there is a lack of bus drivers right now but there is a lack of quality attendants on the buses. There are kids that are nonverbal and don't have a voice for themselves.