

Meeting Minutes of ND Olmstead Commission
Friday, April 17, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL: Wallace Goulet, Co-Chair, Mr. Dan Gulya, Olmstead Coordinator, Ms. Teresa Larsen, P&A Project, Julianne Horntvedt, SCDD, Senator Judy Lee, Carlotta McCleary, MHA/NDFFCMH, and Siobhan Deppa, Citizen Member.

The meeting was called to order at 1:22 p.m. The meeting was recorded and will be accessible to Commission members for review. Introductions were made by everyone present.

APPROVAL OF 1/28/20 MEETING MINUTES: MOTION: A motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Ms. Larsen that the January 28, 2020 Olmstead Commission meeting minutes be approved as typed. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Olmstead Commission Vision/Mission Statement: The Vision and Mission Statements for the Olmstead Commission were reviewed. A suggestion was made that, in the opening statement, the word “embraces” be replaced with either recognizes or accepts. Commission members agreed that these statements should both be succinct and to the point. Changes to these statements can be reconsidered later.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Larsen, and seconded by Ms. Horntvedt, that the proposed Vision/Mission Statements be accepted as presented, with the word embraces changed to recognizes. The motion passed.

- b. E-Mail: Mr. Goulet, Ms. Deppa, and Ms. McCleary have received their nd.gov e-mail addresses. Ms. Deppa expressed the need for some assistance in checking her nd.gov e-mail for messages. Either Mr. Gulya or NDIT will be able to assist Ms. Deppa.
- c. Website: Mr. Gulya indicated that he wanted to finalize the Vision and Mission Statements before the website went live.

Mr. Goulet confirmed that the Commission’s meeting minutes should be put on the website. Using a document archive feature for minutes would be helpful.

Senator Lee suggested that the DHS website be linked to the Commission’s website to keep the lines of communication between the two entities open. The idea of “no wrong door” and having a “one stop shop” is appealing to the Commission.

Mr. Goulet asked if the Commission wanted to give approval to everything that is added to the website. It was decided that Mr. Gulya will use his discretion on additions to the website and contact Mr. Goulet and Ms. Oliver, as Commission Co-Chairs, if there are any question. An update on additions to the website can be given to Commission members at each meeting.

In the area of graphics and making the website user friendly, Ms. Horntvedt stated that she has access to several college interns that are majoring in graphic design that would probably be more than willing to help us out. Ms. Horntvedt and Mr. Gulya will connect on this idea.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion of future Commission meeting dates: Mr. Gulya indicated that the next several Commission meetings will probably be held via teleconference.
It was agreed that an hour and a half meeting will suffice. Ms. Larsen suggested the Commission consider meeting every six weeks for an hour and a half until the next in-person meeting is scheduled. The Commission was in favor of this idea.

It was decided that the next two Olmstead Commission meetings via TEAMS would be scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 and Wednesday, July 15, 2020 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. The Commission’s next in-person meeting will be scheduled for some in September 2020.

b. Re-schedule subcommittee meetings:

Operations: There is nothing new from the Operations Subcommittee.

By-laws: The By-laws Committee is waiting for a complaint process question to be answered before finalizing the by-laws.

Service Survey: Mr. Gulya referred to the ND DHS Asset Map document provided to the Commission by the working group from the DHS person-centered practices group. Mr. Goulet asked Mr. Gulya to follow-up with each of the respective sub-committees to make sure that all their tasks are complete, or to work with them on anything left undone.

Senator Lee asked if she had missed any presentations to the Olmstead Commission by DHS. Mr. Gulya stated that he has visited with the Executive Director of DHS about presentations, but no presentations have been scheduled. Senator Lee stated that the different DHS departments (Developmental Disabilities, Behavioral Health, Child Protection Services, Long Term Care, etc.) should be invited to future Olmstead Commission meetings to share their different knowledge levels. Commission members agreed. Ms. Larsen added that DHS has hired a consultant from the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to assist them in moving towards a “person-centered practice”, so hearing from DHS will be beneficial.

Mr. Goulet asked Mr. Gulya to reach out to Mr. Jones and other DHS department heads to schedule a time for them to present to the Olmstead Commission; Mr. Gulya will attempt to get someone scheduled for both the May 20 and July 15 meetings. Mr. Gulya stated that he has also connected with Ms. Shelly Peterson with the Long-Term Care Association, and she is willing to present to the Commission.

c. Discuss complaint process – Question at Interim Human Services Committee from Senator Kathy Hogan:

Mr. Gulya asked the Commission to give some consideration as to how we want to respond to Senator Kathy Hogan’s question at the Interim Human Services Committee meeting about what our “complaint process” looks like. Senator Lee suggested looking at how other states have dealt with these issues and see if ND can follow suit based on what other states are doing. Mr. Goulet stated that the By-laws Subcommittee should look at this information and come back to the Commission with a report in six weeks.

Senator Lee stated that she will be talking with Senator Hogan soon and can let her know what we are doing, as well as the National Conference of State Legislatures. If she obtains any additional information, she will share it with Mr. Gulya, and it can be reviewed and discussed with the Commission either via e-mail or at the next meeting.

d. Alternate plans for stakeholder input: Ms. Larsen stated that she and Mr. Gulya have visited on several occasions about alternate ways to get input from stakeholders regarding the Olmstead Commission. Contact by phone, virtual meetings, and conference calls were discussed. Reaching out to Self- Advocacy groups, providers, and advocacy organizations would be included in the contacts. Mr. Goulet stated that these all sounded like good ways to obtain input from stakeholders.

Discussion was held on the development of a one-year work plan for the Olmstead Commission. Mr. Gulya will draft a work plan and it will be reviewed at the Commission's July meeting. The work plan will address what the Commission is doing in its formative process, the Commission's Mission and Vision Statements, and what the Commission hopes to accomplish within the next six to twelve months.

Senator Lee expressed that we need to let legislators know what we are doing, this has been done, and this is where we are going in the future. She encouraged Mr. Gulya to plan to address the Senate Human Services Committee.

Mr. Gulya will continue to research alternatives to obtain input from stakeholders. He will be soliciting Commission members for their input on this issue. Mr. Gulya stated that in-person contact with consumers will happen later.

Mr. Goulet thanked everyone for participating in today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.