

NORTH DAKOTA OLMSTEAD COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
NOVEMBER 8, 2023 VIA TEAMS

1. **Members Present:**

- Attendees include Rep. Alisa Mitskog, Veronica Zietz, Carlotta McCleary, Scott Burlingame, Julianna Horntvedt, Senator Judy Lee, The Honorable Bruce Romanick, and Wally Goulet.
- Ryan Norrell was absent.

2. **Other Attendees:**

- Various individuals were present including Nancy Nikolas-Maier, Jake Reuter, Sheryl Beard, Nikki Wegner, Jana Johnson, Trevor Vannett, Matt Schwarz, Donene Feist, Toby Lunstad, Jessica Dargis, Kalya Trzpuć, and Becky Rosenkranz.

3. **Agenda Approval:**

- The agenda was approved, covering updates on the ND/DOJ Settlement Agreement, Olmstead Plan revision, proposed 2024 meeting dates, and Advisory Council and Public comments.

4. **Minutes Approval:**

- The minutes from the previous meeting on August 9, 2023 were approved as presented.

5. **Welcome and Introductions:**

- Mr. Goulet welcomed attendees to the meeting.

6. **Introduction of Nancy Nikolas-Maier:**

- Director of Aging Services and DOJ Settlement Agreement Coordinator
- Ms. Nikolas-Maier discussed the progress of the Settlement Agreement signed in December 2020. The Agreement aims to improve long-term support in integrated settings in North Dakota.
- Ms. Nikolas-Maier presented data covering January 1 - September 30, 2023.
- Key Performance Indicators:
 - Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) referrals increased by 36% in the first three quarters of 2023.
 - Aging Services received 36,369 unique inquiries in the same period, addressing the demand for HCBS for older adults and adults with physical disabilities.
- HCBS Case Managers and Resources:
 - Seven additional HCBS case managers were authorized, all positions have been filled.
 - Aging Services introduced an Aging and Disability Resource Link (ADRL) to facilitate service applications.
 - Efforts to reduce case manager caseloads to around 110 from the current 121 were identified.
- Transitions and Diversions:

- The Money Follows the Person Program and Centers for Independent Living assisted 88 individuals in moving back home in the first three quarters of 2023.
 - Challenges were noted in meeting the benchmark for transitions completed within 120 days, due to considerable barriers faced by some individuals.
 - **Housing Support:**
 - Aging Services is working on home modifications to support individuals' desire to stay in their homes.
 - Rental assistance was provided to 46 individuals in the first three quarters of 2023.
 - **Qualified Service Providers (QSP) and Complaints:**
 - A new portal for QSP applications will be launched in January 2024.
 - Aging Services is tracking and addressing complaints received regarding HCBS.
 - **Incident Reporting and Barriers to Community Living:**
 - Critical incidents are reported to the DOJ within seven days.
 - Barriers to community living include substance abuse issues, behaviors jeopardizing services, poor rental history, provider absenteeism, and lack of support from guardians.
7. **Discussion and questions from Commission members.**
 8. **Olmstead Plan revision update by the Commission Subcommittee.**
 - Presentation of proposed revisions.
 - Feedback and suggestions for improvement.
 - Consideration of creating a shorter, more accessible version.
 9. **Approval of proposed meeting dates for 2024:**
 - February 14
 - May 8
 - August 14
 - November 13.
 10. **Advisory Council Comment:**
 - Member expressed appreciation for the Olmstead Commission's work and raised questions about Century Code 25-01.2-02, emphasizing the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.
 11. **Public Comment:**
 - No public comments were received.

The next Olmstead Commission meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.