

Leadership Forum: Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19, 2022 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom online meeting platform

Call to Order

Co-chairs Lisa Harrison-Hadler (OMHDD) and Curtis Shanklin (DOC) began the meeting, welcomed everyone, and thanked them for attending.

Attendance

Leadership Forum Members

- Curtis Shanklin, Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler, Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- Dan Baker, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Gerri Sutton, Metropolitan Council (MetC)
- Daron Korte, Department of Education (MDE)
- Kody Olson, Department of Health (MDH)
- Kristie Billiar, Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Ryan Baumtrog, Department of Housing (MHFA)
- Colleen Wieck, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)

Designees/Other State Agency Staff

- Dee Torgerson, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Bud Rosenfield, Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)
- John Patterson, Department of Housing (MHFA)
- Tom Delaney, Department of Education (MDE)
- Gloria Smith (DHS)
- Jolene Juhl (DHS)
- Heidi Hamilton (DHS)

- Katrinna Dexter (DOC)
- Dan Kitzberger (MHFA)

Guests

- Shelley Madore (OIO)
- Rosalie Vollmar (OIO)
- Diane Doolittle (OIO)
- Caitlin Arreola (OIO)
- Chloe Ahlf (OIO)
- Rilyn Eischens (OIO)
- Madilyne Wegener (OIO)
- Mike Tessneer (OIO)
- Sue Hankner (Workgroup Member)
- Brent Krocak (Member of the Public)

Agenda Review

Curtis Shanklin (DOC) began the agenda review. The agenda consisted of Approval of the August 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes, the Director’s Report Presentation on the 2022 Plan Satisfaction Survey, and a Review of Big Ideas Proposals to the Subcabinet.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve August 22, 2022, Leadership Forum Meeting Minutes

Action: Motion – Baker. Second – Baumtrog.

In favor: Roll call vote was taken with 10 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.

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

Director's Report Presentation

Shelley Madore (OIO) presented this agenda item. She reviewed the Olmstead Implementation Office's recent 2022 Satisfaction Survey Highlights. Approximately 107 people completed the survey. OIO plans to use the survey results to help state agencies improve the plan by revising or adding goals to the Olmstead Plan. The full report will be available on the OIO website.

Discussion and Questions

- Ryan Baumtrog (MHFA) asked for background and information regarding questions about goals.
 - Shelley Madore (OIO) responded that when taking the survey, the individual would select up to three categories to review and then were sent to the website where the goal progress information is documented.
- Kody Olson (MDH) asked if the full report will include specific comments about the reasons why people are dissatisfied with the different areas that are chosen, and moving forward with the focus group ideas, will you intend to distill that feedback and provide it to the agency's leadership?
 - Shelley Madore (OIO) replied that OIO would like to partner with the agencies to offer educational opportunities to the community. OIO thinks it's very important to hear from community members. Every question allowed comments to be submitted.

Review of Big Idea Proposals for Potential Subcabinet Recommendations

Overview

- At the June 6 Subcabinet Meeting, Commissioner Ho spoke about the budget surplus.
- The Subcabinet was asked to consider some big ideas to use the surplus that could impact people with disabilities.
- At the July 25 Subcabinet Meeting, members shared big ideas.
- The Subcabinet identified areas where there is an intersection between agencies.
- At the August 22 Leadership Forum Meeting, the Leadership Forum decided that the proposal should focus on areas that are both interrelated and reflective of people across their lifespan.
- Leadership Forum Budget Workgroup was created and included subject matter experts. The Workgroup started meeting weekly on September 1.

Development of Proposals

- Each proposal will:
 - Articulate how it impacts the lives of people with disabilities;
 - Show a connection to the Olmstead Plan;
 - Answer how cross-agency collaboration will be achieved;
 - Demonstrate how progress will be measured;
 - Include the financial investment required; and
 - Address individual choice and person-centered practices.

Education Proposal Overview

- Work-based learning is a progression of instruction provided in school, employer, and community settings, to prepare a student with a disability for postsecondary education and employment of choice.
- Work-based learning can increase the daily presence and participation of students with disabilities in integrated employment and community settings of choice.

Department of Education Proposal Presentation – Tom Delaney

- In response to the pandemic, MDE used the CARES act, including ESR and ARP dollars, to add funding to transition programs serving students with disabilities aged 18 to 21.
- There is value in continuing supplemental funding.
- MDE is designing a grant program to transition programs serving 18- to 21-year-old students. These grants would be available to districts, charter schools, and tribal schools.
- Through grant activities, schools identify effective instructional practices for life and vocational skills.
- Goals would be set in three areas: training, deploying staff, and serving students.
- Work-based learning gets students involved in employment exploration.
- Grantees would be required to participate in the employment capacity-building cohort.

Discussion and Questions

- Lisa Harrison-Halder (OMHDD) asked Tom Delaney (MDE) to review and explain some acronyms.
 - WBL: work-based learning, ECBC: Employment Capacity Building Cohort, and E1MN (Employment First) Minnesota is a shared program effort of DHS, DEED, and MDE.
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) asked what makes this transformative and if there is any space to build upon this. What would you identify, or what would you like to do as we go big?
 - Tom Delaney (MDE) responded that to go big, you must go small. The only way to see differences in state-level results or indicators is if actual implementation efforts are happening in communities.
- Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) commented on how agencies can keep pushing aggressively to get to a good idea. Are they big?
 - Tom Delaney (MDE) responded that they would achieve the fastest results when they have teams doing systematic reviews
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) asked if students are paid for job experiences.
 - Tom Delaney (MDE) said students should be paid. MDE is trying to push competitive integrated employment because that's the goal of federal legislation and state policy.
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) followed up and asked if Tom (MDE) was aware that students were not getting paid.
 - Tom Delaney (MDE) said if it is happening, they want to know about it so they can contact the school.
- Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) asked if the department has had more conversations about efforts to reduce the use of aversive practices in school settings and reduce level 4 segregated settings.

- Tom Delaney (MDE) said they do have a legislative-mandated restrictive procedures work group that's working on the same approach to issuing grants to schools to identify practices to reduce restrictive procedures.
- Dan Baker (DHS) commented that he believes that with the focus on paid employment with community-based instruction, DHS tries to ensure students have a lot of job career awareness.

Employment Proposal Overview

- Work with employers to incentivize and educate them on hiring people with disabilities.

DEED Proposal Presented by Dee Torgerson and Chris McVey

- DEED has been looking at potential incentives for hiring people with disabilities and how they can educate employers to provide ongoing support to people with disabilities in their work.
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federally funded program administered through DEED. The program is funded through 2025.
- This program has several targeted groups, including people with disabilities, veterans, long-term unemployed persons, ex-felons, MFIP, social security, and others. Many employers are not aware of the tax credit.
- A benefit of WOTC is that someone can work full-time, part-time, and very part-time, and the employer can still get the tax credit.
- When WOTC needs to be renewed, DEED plans to prepare a legislative request in 2024.

Discussion and Questions

- Mike Tessner (OIO) asked if DEED had a chance to connect with MDE to explore if this program could be a part of their proposal.
 - Chris McVey (DEED) commented that MDE and DEED are counterparts and work very closely with school districts around the state. Connecting with the Employment Capacity-Building Cohort is another example of how they can bring information to a group of school districts, VRS and county case managers. DHS is also important to partner with.
- Bud Rosenfield (OMHDD) asked if DEED and DHS could collaborate to utilize this program in their work.
 - Dee Torgerson (DEED) is looking at a way programmatically for more opportunities to collaborate.
- Colleen Wieck (GCDD) asked if Dee Torgerson and Chris McVey could provide a profile of the people and the targeted groups in WOTC.
 - Dee Torgerson (DEED) said they would work with DEED counterparts to get additional data about the WOTC participants.

Housing Proposal Overview

- Expand a system of vouchers for individuals with disabilities to access housing.

Housing Proposal Presented by Dan Kitzberger

- MHFA wants to increase access to permanent affordable housing for people with disabilities and ensure that coordinated support services are in place to help people successfully transition from their current setting to the housing of their choice in a location of their choice.
- This will happen in two ways:
 - Transition services to increase the number of people who have moved from segregated to more integrated settings.
 - Housing and services – increase the number of people living in the most integrated housing of their choice where they can afford the rent.
- Populations include people with disabilities living in potentially segregated housing and/or provider-controlled housing, people with disabilities or disabling conditions preparing to exit correctional facilities, and Indigenous, Black, and other people of color in compliance with Fair Housing.
- MHFA is partnering with DHS and DOC and plans to reach out to DOT or MetC.
- Resources include rental assistance, services funding, and incentive funding for housing. They may draw from existing program infrastructure, policies, and procedures. Significant new resources will be needed and will be pursued at or during the legislative session.
 - Rental assistance funding provides enough subsidy, so the person doesn't have to pay more than 30% of their income on rent. MHFA wants to create a methodology that allows the program to grow at least to the rate of inflation.
 - Service funding: increase certain existing service funds sources at DHS and DOC and identify new gap funding for Non-Medical Assistance-funded services.
 - New gap funding: particularly for people who don't qualify or can remain eligible for Medical Assistance-funded services.
 - Incentives funding: incentives must be offered to landlords so they're more likely to rent to the populations they are focused on, and landlords will need someone they can call if any housing compliance issues arise.
- Challenges: Housing market, landlords can be very choosy throughout the state in terms of whom they take on, people being screened out, particularly those with justice involvement, and the heavy reliance on service coordination across systems and state agencies.

Discussion and Questions

- Mike Tessneer (OIO) asked if they have estimated the number of people, they want in these housing options. Have you done any work looking at the number you would start with and end with?
 - Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) responded that those numbers have not yet been identified.
- Curtis Shanklin (DOC) asked if there is anything you can think of regarding collaborating with other state agencies?
 - Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) followed up and said he thinks there's some opportunity in the area of transportation.
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler (OMHDD) asked if there has been any intentional focus given to resources in both greater Minnesota and the metro area.

- Dan Kitzberger (MHFA) replied that resources are required to be about 50/50 between metro and greater Minnesota and the transportation piece is critical in greater Minnesota.

Upcoming Leadership Forum Meetings

- October 17, 2022 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
- December 5, 2022 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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