

Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2022; 10:00 AM– 12:00 PM (online)

Welcome

Deputy Secretary Dave Richard, NC Medicaid

- Deputy Secretary Dave Richard expressed his appreciation for the Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory's (OPSA) members' commitment of time and willingness to serve.
- He acknowledged the completion of the Olmstead Plan in December 2021, followed by its publication in January of 2022. He described the Plan as broad ranging, noting that it affirms the desires of a diverse *Olmstead* community, sets out the work that is required, and offers implementation strategies.
- He thanked the legislators that are involved with the OPSA, along with his appreciation for the work of the OPSA's Community Co-Chairs: First In Families of NC's Betsy MacMichael and NC Council on Developmental Disabilities' Bryan Dooley. [Staff note: OPSA members from the NC General Assembly: Senator Sydney Batch; Senator Michael Lee; Representative Carla Cunningham; Representative Donna White]
- Deputy Secretary Richard also thanked General Counsel Lisa Corbett; Assistant General Counsel Pam Scott; Sr. Advisor for the ADA, Sam Hedrick; Assistant Director for Olmstead Plan Implementation, Holly Riddle; and Sherry Lerch of the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC).
- He then extended his appreciation to the many others involved in what he called "incredible work."
- The Deputy Secretary closed by affirming the OPSA's vision statement: "North Carolina champions the right of all people with disabilities to choose to live life fully included in the community."

Opening Remarks

Sr. Advisor for the ADA Sam Hedrick, DHHS

- Sr. Advisor Sam Hedrick welcomed everyone and thanked all for their "arduous work."
- She described the second iteration of the OPSA as a diverse group that informs the implementation structure. She went on to note the focal areas and the organization of OPSA's five committees. Ms. Hedrick explained that the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) was also working on a Strategic Housing Plan.
- She acknowledged that the Office of the Secretary, NC DHHS, greatly appreciated the contributions of the members of the original OPSA. Their work was closely reviewed and drawn upon in the development of the Olmstead Plan.
- Ms. Hedrick thanked current committee chairs and the ex officio members supporting the current OPSA's committees:
 - Transitions to Committee – Dottie Foley (Chair), Pam Shipman (ex officio)
 - Children, Youth and Families – Jenny Hobbs (Chair), Charlene Wong (ex officio)
 - Workforce Development – Annette Smith (Chair), Kelly Friedlander (ex officio)
 - Competitive Integrated Employment – Bridget Hassan (Chair), Chris Eagan (ex officio)
 - Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement – Karen Feasel and Janie Shivar (Co-Chairs), Victor Armstrong and Jessie Tenenbaum (ex officio). [Staff note: Mr. Armstrong has since left the Department. Debra Farrington has assumed the role of NC DHHS' Chief Health Equity Officer and has been invited to join the OPSA.]
- Ms. Hedrick said that she was excited to join the OPSA on a journey that broadens the horizons of the Olmstead Plan.

Role of the Advisory

Betsy MacMichael, Community Co-Chair

- Ms. MacMichael welcomed members of the community and the OPSA.
- She acknowledged that former Co-Chair Charmaine Fuller Cooper would be missed and noted that Ms. Fuller Cooper had accepted a position in another state.
- She welcomed the new OPSA Co-Chair, Bryan Dooley.
- Ms. MacMichael shared that, when reviewing the OPSA committee list, she was pleased to see such a competent, engaged group, poised to support the transformation of the system.
- She noted that it was not the OPSA's responsibility to direct the implementation of the Plan, but that advising the state as it did so was an important role.
- Each NC DHHS division, she said, will provide input into division-specific, implementation workplans over the 2022 – 2023 calendar years. As DHHS shapes its approach to implementing the US Supreme court case, the OPSA will not only provide input, but also amplify the *Olmstead* message and its impact.
- Ms. MacMichael reminded all that the OPSA's meetings are open to the public; guests may comment at the close of each meeting.
- She hopes that the OPSA members will attend the quarterly meetings and committee meetings and trusts that each member will contribute to the best of their abilities.
- Finally, the Co-Chair expressed that the work won't all be done in two years, but the degree of progress should be significant. "This is an opportunity to aim high and measure frequently," she said.

Overview of the Olmstead Plan

Holly Riddle, Office of the Sr. Advisor for the ADA



Olmstead Overview
3.29.22.pdf

Please see the presentation attached.

Approach to Plan Implementation

Sherry Lerch, Technical Assistance Collaborative



Final 3.29.22 OPSA
Meeting.pdf

Please see the t presentation attached.

Discussion and Questions

Co-Chairs and OPSA Members

- Following the two presentations, Ms. Riddle opened the floor to questions from members of the OPSA.
- Ms. MacMichael led the Question and Answer session.
- The following questions/comments were discussed.
 - OPSA member Corye Dunn of Disability Rights NC (DRNC) said that she supports a monitoring process that is robust and independent, with regular reporting to the community to create "meaningful accountability." She would like to see the NC DHHS and leadership be challenged to take in information that is "hard to hear" but vital for change. She stated that the Plan must focus on outcomes. Meaningful oversight, implementation and quality assurance will, she stated, help assure that people have a good life.
 - OPSA member Annette Smith asked whether there was a committee that had reviewed outcomes of *Olmstead* planning from the other states?
 - Ms. Riddle replied "yes" and noted that the TAC had connected NC to national group of *Olmstead* leaders. This group meets regularly.

- Ms. Riddle turned it over to Sam Hedrick to talk about the development of quality measures and outcomes.
- Ms. Hedrick noted that DHHS was pursuing a contract with Mathematica to look at Transition to Community Living (TCL) and the Olmstead Plan. Mathematica proposes to develop dashboards as one of its deliverables. These will make apparent how the state is progressing with respect to key outcomes within both TCL and Olmstead. [Staff Note: TCL is a settlement agreement between North Carolina and the Department of Justice to provide Olmstead-based services and supports in the community to people with serious or severe and persistent mental illness.]
- OPSA member Cindy Ehlers, Trillium Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO), asked how the proposed workgroups aligned with the priorities in the plan. She also asked how to “connect the dots” to move from a document to “boots on the ground” systems change work.
 - Ms. Riddle stated that the workgroups were “buckets” representing some but not all of the areas in which work was to take place under the Plan. The committees are structured around key efforts to move the plan forward.
 - Ms. Lerch added that, under the Plan, the OPSA, the NC DHHS and the LME/MCOs were partners in moving the plan forward. The LME/MCOs and their provider networks have initiatives and objectives that support Plan implementation. Through the DHHS workplans that TAC and NC DHHS’ divisions will develop, the state’s initiatives will be further aligned with the Plan’s goals and objectives.
 - OPSA member Jessica Aguilar, Grupo Poder Y Esperanza, emphasized the need for Plan activities, resources and services to be readily accessible for Latinx communities.
 - Ms. MacMichael responded that while the details of developing the Plan may seem complicated, the goal is to make services and supports equally available to all constituents. She wanted the OPSA’s work, she said, to be “deeply rooted in the community.”

Public Comment

Members of the Public

- Ms. MacMichael opened the floor for public comment.
 - There was no additional feedback.

Next Steps

Holly Riddle, Office of the Sr. Advisor for the ADA

- Ms. Riddle requested that each member provide her, in response to her pending email, with four or five lines from to compile “biographical sketches,” to be used to introduce the members of the group to one another and to the public, via the DHHS Olmstead website.
- Ms. Riddle will meet with the Community Co-Chairs to discuss committee assignments and report back to the group regarding these.
- Ms. Riddle thanked both Deputy Secretary Dave Richard, the OPSA’s Departmental Co-Chair, and Sr. Advisor for the ADA Sam Hedrick whose office provides departmental leadership to the effort.

Closing Remarks

Bryan Dooley, Community Co-Chair

- Mr. Dooley thanked everyone for their hard work. In addition to being the Co-Chair for the OPSA and Chair of the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities, he noted that he works directly with people with disabilities to support community living. He observed that the OPSA’s work is vital and asked for continued advocacy and engagement from all members. “This is big stuff and a big step,” Mr. Dooley said, stating also that he looked forward to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Addendum: OPSA Structure

OPSA Leadership and Staff Support

- Community Co-Chairs – Betsy MacMichael, Director, First In Families of NC; Bryan Dooley, Chair, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Departmental Co-Chair – Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid
- Office of the Sr. Advisor for the ADA – Sam Hedrick, Director
- OPSA Co-Conveners – Holly Riddle, Assistant Director for Olmstead Implementation, Office of the Sr. Advisor for the ADA; Lisa Corbett, DHHS General Counsel, and Pam Scott, DHHS Assistant General Counsel
- Technical Assistance Collaborative – Sherry Lerch, Director
- Office of the Sr. Advisor for the ADA - Olmstead Program Manager – Vickie Callair; Intern – Amber Kimball Hsu

Committee Chairs and Staff

- Workforce Development – Annette Smith, Chair (Staff: Hank Bowers, Kenneth Bausell, Pam Lloyd, Mark Grimaldi)
- Transitions to Community – Dotty Foley, Chair (Staff: Talley Wells, Katie Visconti, Steve Strom, Celeste Ordiway, Brad Owen, Cindy Koempel)
- Children, Youth and Families – Jenny Hobbs, Chair (Staff: Carla McNeill, Tamara Smith, Sharon Bell)
- Competitive Integrated Employment – Bridget Hassan, Chair (Staff: Julie Bloomingdale, Jeff Stevens, Stacy Smith)
- Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement – Karen Feasel and Janie Shivar (Co-Conveners) (Staff: Terri Pennington, Drew Kristel, Hank Bowers, Jeff Stevens, Shauna Shaw, Rob Morrell, Stephanie Williams)

Ex Officio OPSA Members – Debra Farrington (invited), Chris Egan, Kelly Friedlander, Pam Shipman, Jessie Tenenbaum, Charlene Wong