

OPSA Meeting

6/15/26

Opening Remarks and Agenda Overview – Deb Goda and Bryan Dooley

- Deb Goda welcomed attendees and introduced the meeting agenda, Deb also introduced Co-Chair Brian Dooley.
- Brian Dooley emphasized the importance of collaboration to improve community inclusion for people with disabilities.
- Deb Goda outlined the session topics: Dementia Capable NC plan, TBI State Action Plan, Olmstead Quarterly Report, and public comment.

Dementia Capable North Carolina Plan Update - Heather Carter

- Heather Carter presented the history and evolution of the Dementia Capable NC plan, starting from the 2001 HRSA grant and major milestones in 2014, 2016, 2020, and 2022.
- The 2025 reinvigoration adopted a collective impact framework, emphasizing unified agendas, shared metrics, and cross-sector collaboration.
- Key accomplishments included forming a steering committee, finalizing shared aspirations, and developing result statements with broad coalition input.
- Guiding principles were outlined: dignity, inclusion, integrity, and innovation, with a focus on measurable goals and data-driven strategies.
- Result statements targeted brain health, early detection, service access, workforce development, caregiver well-being, and equity across all populations.
- Next steps involve identifying progress indicators and forming workgroups to operationalize the plan.
- Attendees asked about demographic data on dementia, especially among younger individuals and post-COVID trends; Heather Carter noted data gaps and ongoing efforts to improve tracking.
- Discussion addressed hospice involvement and challenges with eligibility for dementia patients, highlighting the need for earlier respite support.

- Heather Carter encouraged direct outreach for those interested in joining the initiative and clarified the inclusivity of coalition membership.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Action Plan - Ginger Yarbrough

- Ginger Yarbrough introduced the TBI State Action Plan, required by federal grant but expanded as a comprehensive state strategy.
- The plan was informed by extensive stakeholder engagement, public comments, and data analysis, revealing low service access compared to prevalence.
- Four main priorities emerged: improving service access, provider and clinician support, caregiver and individual support, and community prevention efforts.
- Specific actions, timelines, and metrics were established for each priority, with public dashboards and regular reporting to ensure accountability.
- The finalized plan is set for publication and implementation in July 2026, with ongoing opportunities for public input and engagement.

Olmstead Quarterly Report and Community Integration - Becky Boss

- Becky Boss presented the Olmstead Quarterly Report, focusing on reducing transportation burdens, promoting service information, and leveraging data for quality improvement.
- Initiatives included mapping underutilized transportation resources, expanding paratransit and on-demand services, and training staff to connect individuals with options.
- Efforts to increase public awareness involved new websites, directories, toolkits, and hotlines, as well as targeted campaigns for IDD and TBI populations.
- Data dashboards were highlighted as tools for transparency and continuous improvement, with public access to progress metrics.
- Discussion included the importance of accessible transportation and the need for ongoing collaboration with the Department of Transportation.

Public Comments, Announcements, and Next Steps

- Attendees raised concerns about accessible transportation, vendor shortages, and the need for broader dissemination of information.
- Plans were made to invite transportation experts to the next meeting and resources for participants.
- Josh and Becky discussed the Housing Services Partnership Accelerator and encouraged interested parties to reach out for more information.
- Matt Potter emphasized the importance of explicitly stating which populations benefit from initiatives to avoid confusion and ensure inclusivity.
- Deb Goda closed the meeting, thanking all presenters and participants, and encouraged ongoing engagement and feedback.

In attendance

Gloria Garton - NC Statewide Independent Living Council
Jessica Aguilar- State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) member
Gwen Thompson- Mathematica
Ginger Yarbough- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS
Heather Carter- NCDHHS, Division of Aging (DA)
Jean Andersen- SCFAC member
Jenny Hobbs- Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids and NC Child
Janie Shivar- NCDHHS, Office of the Secretary (OOS)
Julie Bloomingdale- NCDHHS, Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD)
Kathleen Gibson- Oxford House, Inc.
Katie Visconti- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS
Karen Feasel- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS
Matt Potter- NC Empowerment Network
Melody Beaty - Association for Home and Hospice Care of NC.
Michael Maybee- Marketing Association of Rehabilitation Centers
Neal McHenry- NCDHHS, Office of General Counsel (OGC)
Patricia Sikes- NCDHHS, Division of Services for the Blind (DSB)
Sarah Potter- Parent advocate
Terri Pennington – NCDHHS, DHB
Deb Goda- NCDHHS, OOS
Rebecca Boss- TAC
Angela Smith- NCDHHS, DHB
Anne Odusanya- NCDHHS, Division of Public Health (DPH)

Brad Owen- NCDHHS, OOS
Brandy Burns- - NCDHHS, Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities (DSOHF)
Bryan Dooley- Solutions for Independence
Charlie Hittinger- NCDHHS (DSB)
Chris Egan- NCDHHS, EIPD
Corey Dunn- DRNC
Debra Farrington - NCDHHS, OOS
Detra Purcell- NCDHHS, DA
Drew Kristel- NCDHHS, OOS
Sharon Bell- Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFV)
Vickie Callair- NCDHHS, OOS
Yvonne Copeland- DCFV
Lisa Cauley - DSS
Michelle Alvarez – NCDHHS, DHB
Josh Walker - NCDHHS, OOS