**Olmstead Advisory Committee**

**Workgroup Activity Summary**

**For November 8, 2012**

**Olmstead Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Workgroup Meeting Summaries**

Each of the workgroups held one meeting by teleconference since the last Olmstead Advisory Committee meeting on August 30, 2012. Below are summaries of these meetings.

**Transportation Workgroup (Chair: Rich Smith):**

Meeting on Monday, October 15, 2012

***Committee Member Participants:*** *Rich Smith (Chair), Teddie-Joy Remhild, Michelle Rousy, Nina Nolcox, Robert Taylor*

***Additional Participants:*** *Jill Yungling (Eskaton Adult Day Health Center), Daphne Hunt (Senate Office of Research), Diane Cooper-Pucket (Peg Taylor for Adult Day Health Care), Ann Guerra (Nevada Sierra In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority)*

***Staff:*** *Kiyomi Burchill (California Health and Human Services Agency), Karli Holkko (Program for All-Inclusive Care (PACE), Department of Health Care Services)*

* Chair Rich Smith presented an overview of the transportation challenge. Overall, public transportation is a community service that will be in high demand, given the aging population living in suburban and rural areas. He also identified non-emergency transportation as an area where Medicaid has certain requirements, in order to allow individuals to get to their appointments.
* Chair Rich Smith then highlighted 10 transportation service alternatives. These include taxi programs, volunteer programs, reimbursement programs, brokerage services, and paid medical personnel programs.
	1. **MaineCare Transportation Program (Maine)**. Community Concepts can provide free transportation services to eligible medical appointments to qualified MaineCare (Maine’s Medicaid program) beneficiaries.
	2. **Transportation Reimbursement and Information Project (TRIP) (Riverside County, California):** TRIP is a self-directed mileage reimbursement service. TRIP was designed as a low-cost, low-maintenance, customer driven approach for providing transportation for older adults and people with limitations in Riverside County, California. TRIP passengers recruit their own drivers and rides are arranged between passengers and their drivers. Trips are primarily for medical appointments, but are not limited to them.
	3. **Community Partners in Caring (Santa Monica, California):** Community Partners is a door-through-door, arm-through-arm volunteer driver service (2011 Beverly Foundation STAR Award winner). In 2010, 50 volunteer drivers provided over 3,400 door-through-door, arm-through-arm, transport services and drove over 41,000 miles for 350 riders that were unable to access other senior transportation buses that offer curb-to-curb service only.
	4. **Friendship Works (Boston, Massachusetts):** FriendshipWorks is a medical escort program that has been operating for 28 years. For 27 years, FriendshipWorks’ Medical Escort program has been coordinating volunteers who accompany elders to and from their medical appointments. Trained volunteers offer physical assistance and emotional support—all the way from the recipient’s living room to their doctor’s waiting room, and safely home again, at no cost to program recipients.
	5. **OATS (Missouri):** OATS is a non-profit, public benefit corporation with service area of 87 counties, more than 50,000 square miles and almost as large as the country of Greece. About 80% of its service area is considered rural. OATS helps people all over Missouri get to work, doctor appointments, essential shopping, and other places people need to go. Last year 33,769 people were provided with 1,702,272 one-way using a fleet of over 800 vehicles and employing a staff of 750. OATS does not include volunteer drivers or volunteer vehicles in its transportation services.
	6. **Senior Services Transportation (Washington State):** Senior Services Transportation coordinates a network of 630 volunteer drivers and operates twenty-five community vans in an area covering 2,134 square miles in King County, Washington (2011 Beverly Foundation STAR Award winner). Started in 1975, it provides a higher level of assistance than public transportation agencies.
	7. **West Austin Caregivers (Austin, Texas):** In 1985 five sponsoring congregations in Austin, Texas formed a volunteer service called West Austin Caregivers. The purpose was to respond to needs of the increasing number of elderly living alone in Austin. The organization has grown to 17 sponsoring congregations. Personalized transportation is provided to medical appointments, shopping, volunteer jobs, and other destinations.
	8. **Ride Connection (Portland, Oregon):** Ride Connection was created by TriMet, the public transit system serving a 3,699 square mile area. Ride Connections brokers transportation services through its network of 30 local social service agencies and volunteer programs to provide accessible and appropriate transportation for older adults and people with disabilities, and also for the general population.
	9. **Coordinated Transportation Services (Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts):** CTS is a non-profit has been providing mobility management services since 1997. CTS Manages Non-Emergency Medical Transportation for Medicaid and Medicaid/Medicare dual eligibles in Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts. CTS forms relationships with transportation providers and provider networks for the purpose of maximizing the transportation options available in the communities it serves. Typically the networks include: fixed route bus and rail services, paratransit shared ride options, traditional one-on-one transportation. CTS also administers some customer mileage reimbursement programs.
	10. **Seniors on the Go Taxi-Voucher Program (Fairfax County, Virginia):** Begun in 2001, the Seniors on the Go Taxi-Voucher program is an established Taxi Voucher model. Qualified older adults may purchase a book of 11 three dollar taxi coupons for $20, and up to 16 books of coupons annually. Once enrolled in the program, qualified riders make their own arrangements directly with the taxicab companies. There are no restrictions on where a rider may go.
* Overall, Chair Rich noted two goals that ought to guide transportation programs:
	1. Ability to provide the needed ride to access needed services.
	2. The most rides at least cost. The transportation measure of cost per one-way trip provides the means to objectively compare the performance of different types of services.
* Workgroup participants discussed and identified potential goals to guide the workgroup’s work:
	1. Expand number of rides for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
	2. Coordinate common knowledge on how to establish transportation service alternatives in local communities
	3. Reduce barrier of stakeholder acceptance of transportation service alternatives
	4. Reduce barrier of funding by increasing funding, potentially through health care funding
	5. Create incentives for collaborations and new programs through Consolidated Transportation Services Agencies (CTSAs)
	6. Increase paratransit collaborations with providers that serve individuals with disabilities and older adults
	7. Increase other public transportation collaborations with providers that serve individuals with disabilities and older adults
* **Action Step:** Participants will review these potential goals and send recommendations on goals to prioritize to Rich Smith by email. The priority goals will inform future workgroup presentations, research, and recommendations.

**Housing Workgroup (Co-Chairs: Bob Hand and Nancy Hall)**

Meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2012

***Committee Members:*** *Nancy Hall and Bob Hand (Co-Chairs), Elsa Quezada, Robert Taylor, Sunny Maden*

***Additional Participants:*** *Daphne Hunt (Senate Office of Research), Meredith Wurden (Senate Office of Research), Margarita Ortiz (Disability Services and Legal Center)*

***Presenters:*** *Shamus Roller, Executive Director, and Zack Olmstead, Homeless Policy Director (Housing California)*

***Staff:*** *Kiyomi Burchill (California Health and Human Services Agency), Joel Weeden (Department of Health Care Services)*

* At its last meeting, the Housing Workgroup expressed its interest in a presentation on understanding the funding streams for affordable housing to be better able to advocate for affordable and accessible housing.
* The Housing Workgroup received a presentation from Shamus Roller, Executive Director, and Zack Olmstead, Homeless Policy Director for Housing California). They reported the following:
	+ Housing California is a broad housing coalition consisting of legal aid and affordable housing providers. Its website is [www.housingca.org](http://www.housingca.org).
	+ Non-profit and for-profit developers build affordable housing. This often looks like any other housing, except it is subsidized to be affordable. It is often multi-family. Federal, state, and local governments provide subsidies to create housing that is affordable. That is often paired up with traditional private funding sources for building housing. They often have up to 10 different funding sources.
	+ There are a number of kinds of public funding sources. These include federal and state tax credits. There are federal sources through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME, and the Section 811 Grant. There are state sources like past state bond funds; the two key programs are the Multi-Family Housing Program and the Permanent Supportive Housing program. There are also past local redevelopment funds.
	+ Specific population funding includes for the Mental Health Services Act Housing Program (funded by the Mental Health Services Act, Proposition 63). This is focused on homeless individuals with serious mental illness.
	+ Other programs that exist include Section 8, which are vouchers to help pay rent. At the local level, there are Continuums of Care, which fund the range from transitional to permanent housing.
	+ It has been a challenging time with the California Supreme Court’s upholding the state’s action to eliminate Redevelopment agencies. Local redevelopment agencies will not be able to fund any new affordable housing developments.
	+ Governor Brown signed two bills (AB 1951, AB 1585). Together these make available $30 million for the Multifamily Housing Program, $25 million for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program, and $25 million into Transit Oriented Development program. **Action Step:** Add these bills to the Olmstead Advisory Committee Legislation Watch List.
	+ Housing California is seeking a permanent source for affordable housing to provide funding in the absence of bond funding (the last housing bond was passed in 2006). **Action Step:** Add this bill, once introduced in February 2013, to the Olmstead Advisory Committee Legislation Watch List.
* California applied for the Section 811 Project Rental Assistance program. Department of Health Care Services will hear in the end of October. The focus was on individuals in institutional settings who do not have a place to live in the community. This was a good opportunity for at the state level for the departments involved in housing and the state’s Money Follows the Person program to work together.
* Department of Health Care Services reported that in 2011, public housing authorities in California received 133 Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers. Some of the public housing authorities that were awarded the vouchers have not yet used them. This appears to be the result of those public housing authorities not having relationships with the service delivery systems, like Independent Living Centers. Workgroup members discussed some of barriers, including landlords’ apprehension of unwillingness to accept vouchers.
* Workgroup members discussed potential future agenda items:
	+ Section 8 vouchers and barriers to landlords accepting them. The workgroup could invite California Association of Public Housing Authorities for this discussion. Discussion could also involve delays for consumers seeking Section 8 vouchers.
	+ If California is awarded the Section 811 Rental Assistance Program grant, the Department of Health Care Services could provide an update on its implementation.
* Committee member Robert Taylor suggested inviting local public housing authorities to participate in Housing Workgroup meetings. **Action Step:** Invite the California Association of Public Housing Authorities to send members to participate in this Housing Workgroup.

**Data Workgroup (Chair: Kate Wilber)**

Meeting on Monday, October 22, 2012

***Committee Members:*** *Kate Wilber (Chair), Tim Schwab*

***Additional Participants:*** *Karol Swartzlander (California Health and Human Services Agency)*

***Presenters:*** *Joel Weeden (Department of Health Care Services) Mark Helmar (Department of Health Care Services)*

* At its last meeting, the Data Workgroup discussed their interest in learning about the different types of existing data and presenting this data to the full Olmstead Advisory Committee (Committee).
* For this call, Joel Weeden of the Department of Health Care Services was invited to present on California’s Money Follows the Person (MFP) program, the California Community Transitions Project (CCT), and the availability of national data that could be used to compare trends across different programs. Joel reported that the CCT data is housed in a data warehouse and through contracts with Mathematica can provide bi-annual reports that include:
	+ Number of individuals that have maintained living in the community for up to 365 days;
	+ Lead organizations;
	+ Where referrals are coming from;
	+ The current living conditions of individuals that have participated;
	+ Number individuals looking to transition from skilled nursing facilities into independent living;
	+ Types of services that are provided;
	+ Cost of transition;
	+ Where individuals are transitioned to;
	+ Services that are needed within the community;
	+ Re-institutionalization rates, including hospitals;
	+ Type of Medicaid funding within the first year.
* Mark Helmar of the Department of Health Care Services gave a presentation on the status of the California Medicaid Research Institute (CaMRI) study on home and community based services.. The CaMRI study took place from 2005—2008 and studied Medicare-Medi-Cal claims and assessment from In Home Support Services (IHSS), the Minimum Data Set, and Outcome and Assessment Information Set.
	+ The initial report included actual number of individual and some cost data. A second
* Karol Swartzlander of the Health and Human Services Agency reported on the progress of releasing the Data Warehouse Report and noted that it should be out soon. Karol will notify the Committee when the report is completed.
* The workgroup briefly discussed the AARP State Comparison, “Across the States 2012: Profiles of Long Term Services and Supports,” and noted the importance of identifying other sources of data that would be important to inform the work of the Committee. There was interest in identifying work and reporting on all states’ managed long term care programs.