**Olmstead Advisory Committee**

**Workgroup Activity Summary**

**Three Workgroups Created**

Pursuant to the priorities the Olmstead Advisory Committee had discussed at its meetings, on June 27, 2012, Secretary Diana Dooley announced the establishment of workgroups for Data, Housing, and Transportation. Secretary Dooley appointed the following Committee members to Chair the workgroups:

**Data Workgroup Chair:**

Kate Wilber, Andrus Gerontology Center, University of Southern California

**Housing Workgroup Co-Chairs:**

Nancy Hall, Disability Services and Legal Center

Bob Hand, Resources for Independence Central Valley

**Transportation Workgroup Co-Chairs:**

Lydia Missaelides, California Association for Adult Day Services

Richard Smith, Independent Living Partnership

**Workgroup Meeting Summaries**

Each of the workgroups has held at least one meeting by teleconference. Below are summaries of these meetings.

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

Meeting Date: June 11, 2012

***Committee Members:*** *Kate Wilber (Chair), Tim Schwab, Mary Jann, Michele Roussy, Pat Blaisdall*

***Presenters:*** *Lisa Shugarman and Sarah Steenhausen (The SCAN Foundation)*

***Staff:*** *Kiyomi Burchill (California Health and Human Services Agency)*

* The Olmstead Data Workgroup convened its first meeting with a presentation by Lisa Shugarman on The SCAN Foundation funded report, “Analysis of State Approaches to Implementing Standardized Assessments.” This report analyzes how four states (Washington, Minnesota, Arkansas, and New York) have implemented uniform assessments.
* Ms. Shugarman identified a number of takeaways for California, including that the state may wish to consider: procuring an off-the-shelf tool, ensuring no-conflict case managers or assessors, including any information desired in the questions up front, using an automated tool, having an analytic team housed within Agency that can monitor data quality across departments, and providing guidance on assessments to plans implementing the Duals Demonstration.
* Workgroup members asked follow up questions, and agreed to have a subsequent meeting to discuss workgroup goals.

Meeting Date: August 6, 2012

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

***Staff:*** *Kiyomi Burchill, Amber Ostrander (California Health and Human Services Agency)*

* The Olmstead Data Workgroup convened its second meeting with a discussion on issues for the Data Workgroup to tackle and issues on the horizon. The workgroup identified three issues:
	+ The issue of the inability to move patients out of an acute care hospital into a skilled nursing facility (SNF). Although it is not specifically an issue of moving a patient into the community, this issue appears to relate to Olmstead given that an acute care hospital is a more restrictive setting than a SNF setting. Workgroup members suggested possible indicators and data points that could be reviewed, including patient length of stay, administrative day records from hospitals and discharge tracking records. **Action step:** The workgroup will explore what data are available on this issue through the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).
	+ The closure of hospital-based SNFs, which makes step down care more difficult. Workgroup members suggested looking at data that reflects patients that were discharged to a SNF and stayed 90 days or more. These data could show if long stays are increasing or decreasing and what is accounting for the conversions. **Action step**: Chair Kate Wilber is doing this research on data from 2007-2009 and could report to the Workgroup once the analyses are complete in the next few months.
* The increasing focus on 30-day hospital readmission rates and the focus on transition programs. A recent article in *Health Affairs* suggested that many readmits to hospitals are driven by SNFs. **Action step:** Explore possibility of analyzing data by payer and region and identify what is available regarding home- and community-based services.
* Staff Kiyomi Burchill mentioned that the California Medicaid Research Institute (CaMRI) report, “Recipients of Home- and Community-Based Services in California,” was recently released in June.  Workgroup members suggested inviting a representative from CaMRI to make a presentation of the report to the Data Workgroup at its next meeting in September/October. **Action step**: Workgroup members suggested that they invite a representative to make a presentation of findings to the Data Workgroup in September/October, in preparation for the November Olmstead meeting.

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

Meeting on Wednesday, August 1

***Committee Members:*** *Bob Hand (Co-Chair), Nancy Hall (Co-Chair), Nina Nolcox, Elsa Quesada, Robert Taylor, Howard Chavez, Joanne Handy*

***Presenters:*** *Therese Llanes and Joel Weeden (Department of Health Care Services), Christina DiFrancesca (Department of Housing and Community Development), Chris Penny (California Housing Finance Agency)*

***Staff:*** *Kiyomi Burchill (California Health and Human Services Agency)*

* The Olmstead Housing Workgroup convened its first meeting with a presentation by state staff developing California’s application to participate in the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Project Rental Assistance Demonstration Program through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Presenters included staff from the Department of Health Care Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, and the California Housing Finance Agency.
* This is a five-year demonstration program and HUD will select 12 states to participate. The target is persons with disabilities ages 18-61. This program is similar to project-based Section 8 funding, in that it will provide rental assistance to these individuals to live in existing housing stock.
* Committee members asked whether this could be used to help maintain housing for individuals in nursing homes. State staff clarified that the federal funds are targeted for individuals who have long stays in nursing homes. In response to a question on the geographic scope, state staff also clarified that this program will be statewide.
* California plans to submit its application on August 2 and will be notified by HUD by October 31. If awarded this grant, California plans to issue a Notice of Funding Availability to developers in November 2012, and make awards in March 2013.
* Committee members additionally identified a number of areas of focus and follow up. They are interested in understanding the funding sources for affordable housing, and staff will follow up with additional information. Additionally, a priority area is maintaining housing while individuals are in nursing homes. And finally, the committee is interested in discussions around how to increase the supply of affordable, accessible housing, including current issues related to the sources of funding for affordable housing.

**Transportation Workgroup (Co-Chairs: Richard Smith and Lydia Missaelides):**

Meeting on Monday, August 6

***Committee Members:*** *Lydia Missaelides, Richard Smith (Co-Chairs), Robert Taylor*

***Staff:*** *Kiyomi Burchill, Amber Ostrander (California Health and Human Services*

*Agency)*

* The Olmstead Transportation Workgroup convened its first meeting with a discussion on transportation access. The Workgroup discussed the difference in transportation needs for older adults and younger individuals with disabilities. Many older adults have transportation needs that are newer to them as they have aged into disabilities. Co-Chair Richard Smith framed the issue, describing that it is not about who has transportation access, but who does not.
* It was noted that public transportation and special transportation services within the community play a significant factor in the ability of people to access health services. Workgroup members agreed that with the move to managed care in Medi-Cal, it would be helpful to know whether managed care plans are required to provide Medi-Cal beneficiaries with transportation in getting to healthcare appointments.
* Workgroup members additionally discussed why populations may be underserved in the area of transportation. Populations that reside in heavily populated areas typically have access to more services, including public transportation options, unlike in many rural areas.
* As a next step, the workgroup will look at service alternatives in transportation. Co-Chair Richard Smith will put together a presentation describing transportation service alternatives from the last decade to present at the next workgroup meeting in September/October.