

## Legislative Forum on Disability - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**December 3, 2018 1:00pm to 3:00pm**  
**Minnesota Senate Building, Hearing Room 1150**  
**Call-in option: 651-284-6475**

**Event organizer: Kody Olson, Public Policy Director, Minnesota Council on Disability**  
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### Policy Presentations

#### 1:00: Welcome and policymaker introductions - Joan Willshire

- Minnesota Council on Disability is celebrating its' 45<sup>th</sup> year as a state agency
- Statutory charge ranges from building code and accessibility, transportation, transit, employment barriers, emergency preparedness, Olmstead issues, and anything that covers accessibility

#### 1:05: 2019 Legislative Session - Senator Jerry Relph

- Sits on Senate Human Services and Judicial Committee
- Vice-chair of Senate Aging and Long-term Care Committee
- Working on policy area of complex PCA (personal care assistance)
  - Sponsored legislation that will change requirements and lower it to ten hours, which will open up a larger number of people who will be eligible for higher pay rate
  - Increase the rate by 125% for people who qualify
  - Was swallowed in large omnibus bill in 2018 legislative session
- Also working on Disability Waiver Rate System (DWRS)
  - Tremendous blow from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 7% cut
- Workgroup for workforce shortage
  - Looking for solutions in Human Services in home and community-based care, disability care, and general delivery of care
  - Creative solutions regarding: number of people, compensation, pathways, and career ladder
  - "Credit" for services in care
- Dakota County Pilot Program

- Interagency collaboration for delivery of services
- Mental Health
  - Data sharing presents barriers from HIPAA and other privacy requirements make it difficult to share information regarding people and conditions they have
  - Law enforcement interactions and criminal justice issues
- Crisis and Medical Care
  - Can't continue to warehouse people in emergency rooms- just doesn't work
  - Capital Improvement Committee authorized \$45 million to look into crisis centers and build them
  - Provide interim care for people who have been brought in on a 72-hour hold or other hold where they are dealing with a mental health issue

### **1:15: Minnesota Human Rights Department - Commissioner Kevin Lindsey and Scott Beutel**

- Department investigates complaints of discrimination- disability discrimination is most common
- Employment opportunities for people with disabilities a significant issue
  - Department monitors state contractors- asking all what efforts they do to hire people with disabilities
  - Audits went from 20-25 annual to about 500 annual during Dayton administration
  - Contractors were eagerly paired with state Vocational Rehabilitation services
  - Promoting diversity and inclusion councils, boards, and commissions to ensure people with disabilities have a voice in the development of public policy
  - Participate at [MN.gov/Olmstead](http://MN.gov/Olmstead)

### **1:25: Olmstead Office and Department of Human Services - Darlene Zangara, Heidi Hamilton**

- Olmstead Office
  - Completed it's 3 year strategic review
  - Annual plan amendment process- public input begins on Dec. 20 through Jan. 31
  - Second round of public input is from Feb 26 to March 11 focusing on specific amendments proposed
- Department of Human Services
  - Workforce is a significant policy focus
    - Interested in collecting data
  - Discussions around establishing rate framework based on costs and not historical artifact
  - DWRS rates should have a framework to keep pace with economic needs of people and supporting people
  - Streamlining and simplifying home and community-based service waivers for people with disabilities



- #MNParksForAll
  - Partnering with DNR to design inclusive state parks for people with disabilities
- Amend building code language to clarify accessibility of public buildings
- Increase accessibility of assisted living facilities
- Partnering with League of Minnesota Cities to craft inclusive legislation to work with transportation network companies such as Uber/Lyft to make services equitable and accessible for people with disabilities

### **1:50: General Audience Questions**

- Speaker-elect Melissa Hortman (was in attendance and spoke):
  - Working with Sen. Gazelka regarding the 7% CMS cut and depending on budget forecast may have opportunity to move forward

## **Community Presentations**

### **2:00: Disability community introductions - Joan Willshire**

- Introductions

### **2:05: Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities - Marnie Falk**

- Five Goals:
  - Help people live and thrive in their communities
    - PCA rate reform
    - Protect access to services that help people with disabilities live and work as independently as possible
    - CDCS expansion
    - Repeal preferred incontinence
    - Increase access to adaptive fitness by creating grant program
    - #MNParksForAll
  - Ensure access to coverage and care
    - Improve and protect Medical Assistance
      - Streamline TEFRA enrollment and renewal
      - Partial fee reduction, lower parental fees
      - Healthcare access fund
  - Make quality programs available
    - Complex day care
    - Establish pilot project to better provide housing and services to Minnesotans with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders

- Protect dignity and safety
  - Mitchell's law
    - Allows Minnesotans to list up to 3 emergency contacts on their driver's license
  - Autism training for first responders
- Invest in research and education
  - Establish Chloe Barns' Advisory Council on Rare Diseases
  - Establish statewide autism council

**2:15: The Arc Minnesota and the PCA Reform Coalition - Alicia Munson, Jeff Bangsberg, Vicki Gerrits**

- Arc Minnesota
  - Lower MA TEFRA paternal fees
    - Reducing the bureaucracy of enrollment and renewal
  - Working with MnCASA to collect data and assess rates of sexual violence perpetration against individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
    - Evidence-based training and education for stakeholder groups
  - Self-advocacy
    - Minnesota Inclusion Initiative
  - Working with Lutheran Social Services to improve consumer-directed community supports (CDCS)
  - Increase in special education funding
  - Homes for All Coalition
- PCA Coalition Reform
  - Reimbursement rate increases
  - Build framework into the forecast like it used to be (inflationary adjustment)
  - Concerned with integrity of the program

**2:25: Lutheran Social Services and Brain Injury Alliance - Juliana Keen and Zach Eichten**

- Lutheran Social Services
  - Top priority is fixing the 7% cut to home and community-based services
  - Expand access to consumer-directed community supports
  - Homes for All coalition
- Brain Injury Alliance
  - Improving Medical Assistance, specifically spend-down
  - Income and asset limits
  - Homes for All coalition
  - Working with coalition partners to expand transit options

- Prevention of disabilities
  - Limit distracted driving through the use of cell phones
- Mitchell's Law

### **2:35: Minnesota Association of Centers for Independent Living - Cara Ruff**

- Concerned with the rise in minimum wages, nonprofits, the lower reimbursement and banding for waived services, which is going back to essentially what it was more than ten years ago
  - Funding has not gone up significantly in the past two decades
- Need to expand community-based options for veterans
- Centers for Independent Living saved the state of Minnesota about \$25 million last year by keeping people living independently in their homes with dignity and choice
- Asking for \$9 million for eight organizations

### **2:45-3:00: Open forum**

- Audience member: website accessibility
  - Website accessibility is a state statute that says that state of Minnesota must have guidelines for website accessibility and all state agencies should have accessible websites
  - Lots of inaccessible content on state agency websites
- Submit questions or comments to MCD at [council.disability@state.mn.us](mailto:council.disability@state.mn.us)