

# **Olmstead Consumer Task Force**

Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2024  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Held Virtually

## **OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joel Vander Molen (co-chair)	Bill Loyd
Michelle Allmandinger	Michael Martin
Paula Connolly	Brittney Montross
Amy Desenberg-Wines	Jen Simmering
Edward Esbeck	Megz Stroback
Garret Frey	Kelly Stull
Ernie Geiger	Joey Wesselink
Harriet Gulbranson	Jessica Williams
Marc Hines	

## **OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Amber Alaniz-Skiles	Lisa Pakkebier (excused)
Greg Fier (excused)	David Thielen

## **STAFF SUPPORT:**

Falicia Beck

## **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Mari Brown	Todd Lange
Jay Dworin	Megan Marsh
Whitney Finnstrom	Britney McDonald
Lindsey Gillette	Koki Nakagawa
Josephine Gittler	Caitlin Owens
Ben Grauer	Courtney Sand
Kyra Hawley-Preston	Kim Walford
Justin Knudson	Pam Woelber
Kim Kuhn	

## **Materials Referenced**

Olmstead Consumer Task Force September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Agenda DRAFT  
Olmstead Consumer Task Force July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes DRAFT  
Aging and Disability Services – Behavioral Health Services Update September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Guardianship and Conservatorship Video Fact Sheet  
Cloudburst Group PowerPoint Presentation Slides September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Accessible Parking One-Pager 2024

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Joel Vander Molen, Olmstead Consumer Task Force vice chair called the meeting to order at 10:01am thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established.

## **Review & Vote on Approval of September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

Joel opened the floor to invite revisions to the September agenda, no revisions stated. Harriet Gulbranson made a motion to approve the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting agenda. Paula Connolly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Review & Vote on Approval of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Joel opened the floor to approve the July meeting minutes. No revisions stated. Michelle Allmandinger made a motion to approve the July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes. Brittney Montross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **State Agency Updates**

Kim Walford, Department of the Blind, read by staff support, Falicia Beck, The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) has completed the reallocation process for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024 for the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) program. Iowa's award was \$12,434.00 of the total one-time funds available. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 beginning October 1, 2024, program services at the department will continue for eligible Iowans who are 55 years and younger with low vision or who are blind and have secondary or tertiary disability. The agency will no longer be receiving Chapter VII, Chapter 1, Part B funding through the now ratified 2024-2027 Iowa State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) as executed by the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The SPIL outlines how the Part B funding will be used instead.

Megan Marsh, Iowa Finance Authority, provided an update about the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Rent Subsidy Program, they are continuing to serve individuals and the current waitlist is approximately two to four months.

## **Iowa Health and Human Services Updates**

Kyra Hawley, Aging and Disability Services, the system alignment plan and timeline information can be found at [HHS System Alignment | Health & Human Services \(iowa.gov\)](https://www.iahs.gov/HHS-System-Alignment-Health-&-Human-Services). The assessment overview for the system alignment is on this document: [HHS System Alignment Assessment Overview](#) and the service delivery alignment assessment report can be found here: [Iowa HHS Service Delivery Alignment Assessment](#). Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) has a website with the most updated information here: [Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments \(HOME\) | Health & Human Services \(iowa.gov\)](https://www.iahs.gov/Hope-and-Opportunity-in-Many-Environments-(HOME)-Health-&-Human-Services) and an infographic that can be found here: [HOME Timeline Infographic \(iowa.gov\)](https://www.iahs.gov/HOME-Timeline-Infographic) and the Transformation Plan can be found here: [Iowa Program Evaluation of Community-based Services](#). The email to reach the Mathematica-Harkin team is [iowahcbs@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:iowahcbs@mathematica-mpr.com). Medicaid Town Halls are open to the public and can be found at this website: [Medicaid Town Halls | Health & Human Services](https://www.iahs.gov/Medicaid-Town-Halls-Health-&-Human-Services)

[\(iowa.gov\)](#). Integrated Health Home (IHH) service changes and updates can be found at this website: [Integrated Health Home \(IHH\) | Health & Human Services \(iowa.gov\)](#). Fall trainings and learning collaborative can be found at this website: [Integrated Health Home \(IHH\) Learning Collaborative | Health & Human Services \(iowa.gov\)](#). The email to reach out for specific questions about IHH is [healthhomes@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:healthhomes@dhs.state.ia.us). The Iowa Solutions for Aging with Independence and Longevity (IA SAIL) will continue town halls, focus groups, and collection of email feedback through November 6, 2024, with a goal for the Multisector Plan to be published winter 2024.

### **Guardianship and Conservatorship Training**

Professor Josephine Gittler Director of the Institute on Guardianship and Conservatorship, and Amy Desenberg-Wines shared information on four newly released instructional videos. Professor Gittler worked to develop educational videos about the requirements relating to the guardianship and conservatorship reform legislation and amendments (SF 295). The videos can be found here: [People's Law Library of Iowa - YouTube](#), there are more detailed information about guardianship and conservatorship in self-directed modules on this website: [Guardianships and Conservatorships :: Iowa People's Law Library \(peopleslawiowa.org\)](#).

Kyra Hawley, Aging and Disability Services, shared additional video resources from HHS, which can be found at this website: <https://itss-iowa-trualta.com/login>, and the Office of Public Guardian email to request more information on this is: [opg@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:opg@hhs.iowa.gov).

### **Iowa Economic Development Agency and Cloudburst Group Focus Group**

Justin Knudson, Iowa Economic Development Agency and three staff members from the Cloudburst Group, Whitney Finnstrom, Jay Dworin, and Lindsey Gillette presented on the Consolidated Plan required to continue receiving HUD funding. See PowerPoint slides attached. The survey link to assist in this data collection is here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNLCPR>. Websites shared included: [Quarterly Fair Housing Trainings \(Free\) | Iowa Civil Rights Commission](#) and [Easterseals Iowa | Assistive Technology Program](#).

### **Taskforce Committee Reports**

The Executive Committee updates were provided by Joel Vander Molen, the vice chair of the committee. The Committee met on August 12 and discussed focus groups, an annual in person option, member terms, and OCTF legislative priorities.

The Nominations Committee updates were shared by Marc Hines, the chair of the committee. The Committee met September 3 to review applications as there was one member whose second term was to end at the end of September. The committee is looking to send a more intentional request for applicants specifically looking for people with legislative experience to join the Taskforce.

The Olmstead Plan Committee updates were provided by Amy Desenberg-Wines, the chair of the committee. The Committee has not met since the last Taskforce meeting due to information that has yet to be released that directly impacts the Olmstead Plan.

The Community Access Committee updates were provided by Jen Simmering, the chair of the committee. The Committee made the attached Accessible Parking one-pager from information shared by Dr. Arvid Osterberg. Paula Connolly recommended the Taskforce share this document to legislators, businesses, and organizations throughout Iowa.

The Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee updates were provided by Paula Connolly, the chair of the committee. Since this is Paula's last meeting as a member, there is a Taskforce

member who is looking to chair the Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee. At the next committee meeting members will have a discussion about the legislative priorities, and prospective dates for an OCTF Legislative Event. There was also a call for members to be willing to share their stories at these events.

**Recognition of Paula Connolly – Outgoing OCTF member**

Paula Connolly was recognized for her time as a member serving both her full two terms and fulfilling a past member’s term. Paula served as the chair of the Medicaid Committee which became the Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee in 2023. Appreciation was shared for her dedication and service to both the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce and individuals with disabilities throughout the state of Iowa.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:56pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Falcia Beck.