

**OCTF Medicaid and Legislative Watch Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2024**

In Attendance: Bill Loyd (Chair), Harriet Gulbranson (voting member), Paula Connolly, Falcia Beck (staff support)

Excused: Megz Stroback, Kelly Stull, Jen Simmering, and Amy Desenberg-Wines all communicated in advance that they could not make today's meeting

Absent Voting Members: David Thielen, Michael Martin

2025 Legislative Priorities from Related Entities

State Level (What to Focus on for Now)

- OCTF members would like focused action and not too broad.
- Published priorities of the following agencies were reviewed (see meeting agenda for full list of priorities) :
 - Iowa DD Council
 - Iowa Association of Community Providers
 - The Arc
 - **TO DO:** Reach out to LEND to see if they have legislative priorities.

Federal Level

- Is the Taskforce interested in federal level advocacy?

The ARC

- Medicaid is up for a vote – HCBS - Block Grants may be on the horizon. The ARC hosts a weekly policy call: link to be shared.

ANCOR – National Provider Association (linked to IACP)

- Heavy focus on Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) – [2024 Report Published](#)

Proposed Focus AREAS for OCTF

A. Medicaid

- Overhaul at state level; reauthorization at federal level
- Track reforms (past and future) and have a presence at public comment meetings

B. Availability of Supports

- Capacity
 - Waiting lists and inadequate number of providers to meet the need
 - Inadequate reimbursement rates for providers
 - Direct Support Professional Workforce Crisis (see ANCOR REPORT)

C. Employment

- Support the [Work Without Worry Act](#)

D. Strategies – once the full committee decides on areas of focus, the subcommittee will work to

- Track actual legislative bills
- Develop personal stories of how the bill affects people (one page leave behind documents)
- Develop specific asks and educate legislators on the implications of proposed legislation

Des Moines Advocacy Day

- Collaborating with other entities - in-person for greater impact as opposed to hosting a separate virtual hill day. Several already have published dates for the 2025 legislative session.
 - Bill will reach out to IACP, IDDC, ILEND and IAS to see if they wish to collaborate

Building Legislative Champions

- Throughout the year by:
 - Zoom calls, visits, and invitations to OCTF meetings outside of session with legislators to build relationships
 - Consider supporting the IACP
- Potential Champions
 - Rep. Elizabeth Wilson
 - Rep. Josh Turek
 - Solicit other names from OCTF members
- Info to share:
 - What the OCTF is

- What our priorities are
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January 2025

- Full OCTF meeting – will present proposed priorities outlined above

February 2025

- Based on priorities identified by the OCTF
 - Will probably need a couple of meetings this month to:
 - Research bills: Look into InfoNet (Amy Campbell)
 - Drill down into the legislative priorities and action items for the OCTF
 - **TO DO:** Reach out to committee to see what dates will work
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Meeting Kaizen

- Need more representation of the members in these meetings
 - Individual conversations with voting members
 - Agenda and reference materials help facilitate discussions
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Meeting Schedule 2025

Action Items

- **Falicia:**
 - Send another email to confirm and come to a consensus for the date to meet on a regular basis
 - Reach out to committee to see what dates will work for additional meeting in February
 - Future Committee Meeting: Invite new Liz Matney to our meeting and build relationship
- **Bill:**
 - Reach out to IACP, IDDC, and Iowa Autism Society about Hill Day collaboration
 - Present proposed priorities at next full OCTF meeting