

Olmstead Consumer Task Force

Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2024
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Held Virtually

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Pakkebier	Harriet Gulbranson
Joel Vander Molen	Marc Hines
Amber Alaniz-Stiles	Michael Martin
Michelle Allmandinger	Brittney Montross
Amy Desenberg-Wines	Jen Simmering
Edward Esbeck	Megz Stroback
Greg Fier	Kelly Stull
Ernie Geiger	David Thielen

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Garret Frey (excused)	Joey Wesselink (excused)
Bill Loyd (excused)	Jessica Williams

STAFF SUPPORT:

Falicia Beck

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Mari Brown	Megan Marsh
Anne Crotty	Brian Marston
Maggie Ferguson	Britney McDonald
Eric Gebhart	Koki Nakagawa
Kyra Hawley-Preston	Caitlin Owens
Dawn Kekstadt	Amy Robasse
Brooke Lovelace	Kim Walford

Materials Referenced

Olmstead Consumer Task Force November 1st, 2024, Meeting Agenda DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force September 13th, 2024, Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Health and Human Services - Aging and Disability Services Update November 1st, 2024
Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council Message Worksheet
Iowa DD Council Advocacy Toolkit

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Pakkebier, Olmstead Consumer Task Force chair called the meeting to order at 10:00am thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established at 10:01am.

Review & Vote on Approval of November 1st, 2024, Meeting Agenda

Lisa opened the floor to invite revisions to the November agenda, no revisions stated. Ernie Geiger made a motion to approve the November 1st, 2024 meeting agenda. Harriet Gulbranson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review & Vote on Approval of September 13th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Lisa opened the floor to approve the September meeting minutes. No revisions stated. Michael Martin made a motion to approve the September 13th, 2024 meeting minutes. Kelly Stull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Preparing for 2025 Legislative Session – Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Brooke reminded the Taskforce about the DD Council's Capital Chats held every month, with the next one meeting on Friday, December 13, 2024, from 12pm – 1pm. The link to register for the chats and to find recordings and slides of previous meetings is here:
<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/capitol-chats>.

Brooke reported on the four tentative Iowa DD Council Legislative Priorities which are: Employment, Education, Community Living & Healthcare, and Voting. All of these are meant to address the disparities Iowans with disabilities face in each category. Brooke also stated the DD Council will be uploading a document with more specifics on this information to their website which is thought to be completed sometime mid-to-late November 2024.

Brooke shared the importance of introducing oneself to their legislators shortly after election to congratulate them and let them know about the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce. The Iowa DD Council has a toolkit to assist in legislative advocacy which can be found here:
<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/advocacy-toolkit>. The DD Council has Capital Advocacy Day Grants, the application can be found at this link: [Capitol Advocacy Days \(iowaddcouncil.org\)](https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/capitol-advocacy-days).

Discussion on the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Legislative Priorities concluded voting members will take a poll on the Iowa DD Council Legislative Priorities to determine the two priorities the Taskforce will adopt/expand for the 2025 Legislative Session.

Focus Group Update – Dawn Kekstadt, Aging and Disability Services

Dawn reported the information shared during the focus group is directly impacting the redesign efforts to make Iowa more accessible for individuals with disabilities. This includes providing scenarios based on real life examples and how the state would address those effectively and efficiently. Dawn updated that HHS will be posting the awardee for one of two different contracts relating to these efforts. This awardee will be in charge of statewide training and technical

assistance to keep consistency in messaging of information as well as providing a call center.

Iowa Health and Human Services Updates – Dawn Kekstadt, Aging and Disability Services

Dawn Kekstadt, Aging and Disability Services, the position that recently was held by Connie Fanselow has been filled by Laura Leise who will start the role November 22, 2024. Laura will be eased into her role with one of her top priorities being updating the Olmstead Plan. The attached document provides more updates from Iowa HHS.

State Agency Updates

Kim Walford, Department of the Blind, shared the Department of the Blind is gearing up to celebrate their 100th year anniversary.

Proposal for OCTF Meeting Changes – Marc Hines, Voting Member

Marc shared the four suggested changes by the Executive Committee. These included efforts to give others opportunities to talk through efforts to be efficient and thoughtful when speaking, no longer including full introductions of all attendees (instead there will be member and agency rosters, chat messaging introductions, and renaming Zoom titles) and only introducing new members or agency representatives. To decrease the Taskforce only receiving updates and trying to move to more advocacy efforts, a suggestion was to create a consent agenda/minutes where the subcommittee meetings would be reported in minutes and only action-based information would be stated during the meeting, additionally state agency representatives are encouraged to send the OCTF staff support any updates that can be bulleted and shared in the reminder emails. Another suggestion working toward the same goal was to have focus topics for meetings and inviting specific individuals both to speak to the topic and advocate for actionable items regarding said topic.

This was brought to the Taskforce to vote on implementation of these proposed meeting changes. Harriet Gulbranson suggested and motioned tabling the vote until the January 10 OCTF meeting, Edward Esbeck seconded the motion. Amy Desenberg-Wines requested a friendly amendment of moving forward with the trial of decreasing the meeting time to 2.5 hours, no longer including full introductions, the consent agenda/minutes, and topic areas. Joel Vander Molen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Marc Hines abstained.

Taskforce Committee Reports

The Executive Committee updates were provided by Lisa Pakkebie, the chair of the committee. The Committee discussed the survey responses which concluded having an annual in person option in July alternating between Iowa City and Des Moines, the adjustment to OCTF meetings, and checking for functionality of website links.

The Nominations Committee updates were shared by Marc Hines, the chair of the committee. The Committee has not met since the last Taskforce meeting but plans to meet sometime in November – January to potentially present a new member for a vote.

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 Falcia Beck, the staff support for the OCTF. The Committee will not be meeting in November due to Veteran's Day. The next meeting will be Monday, December 9, 2024, from 1pm – 2pm.

The Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee updates were provided by Falcia Beck, the staff

support for the OCTF. The committee discussed inviting Brooke Lovelace and topics for conversation, potential legislative priorities, and started planning toward another OCTF legislative event.

Public Comment

Greg Fier, voting member, reiterated the importance of everyone feeling comfortable unmuting and sharing stories and asking questions.

Kelly Stull, voting member, shared many members are also working at the time and may need to ask for something to be reshared for clarity.

Falicia Beck, staff support, shared the role of staff support is to help by getting people back up to speed, asking questions if people want it to be asked anonymously, or providing any assistance for accommodations of any kind.

Mari Brown, ASK Resource Center, stated the value of the OCTF especially with the open floor for individuals with disabilities to share and ask questions and wanted to make sure the Taskforce doesn't lose sight of the value in all peoples' perspectives.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:32pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Falicia Beck.