

## OCTF Community Access Subcommittee Meeting Minutes February 12, 2025

**In Attendance:** Jen Simmering (Chair), Joel Vander Molen (voting member), Ed Esbeck (voting member), Megz Stroback (voting member), Ernie Geiger (voting member), Jessica Williams (voting member), Falicia Beck (staff support), Anne Crotty, Ben Grauer

**Absent Voting Members:** Greg Fier, Michael Martin, Amber Alaniz-Stiles, Brittney Montross

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The goal of this Community Access Committee meeting: work to support members in creating their stories highlighting the legislative priorities.

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### OCTF 2025 Priority Areas and Advocating Messages

#### 1) Employment

- a. Support the [Work Without Worry Act](#)
  - i) Jessica and Ed filled out their stories using the Iowa DD Council's Advocacy Worksheet

#### 2) Medicaid

- a. A budget increase is proposed for this year ([HF 13](#)) – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**
  - i) Joel and Greg filled out/will fill out their stories using the Iowa DD Council's Advocacy Worksheet

#### 3) Availability of Services/Capacity

- i) Lawsuit from 17 states, including Iowa, regarding Section 504 – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**
  - (1) More information: [Texas v. Becerra: What it is and How You Can Help Stop the Attack on Section 504 - DREDF](#)
  - (2) Iowa's Attorney General: Brenna Bird
    - (a) Contact information
      - (i) Email: [comment@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:comment@ag.iowa.gov) or [webteam@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:webteam@ag.iowa.gov)
      - (ii) Address: Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 E. Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319
      - (iii) Phone: (515) 281 – 5164
      - (iv) Website: [Contact Us | Iowa Attorney General](#)

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#### Next Steps for the Subcommittee

- Begin identifying and developing stories aligned with target legislation
  - Contact Iowa's Attorney General and share 504 story
  - Continue to identify advocacy tools and best practices
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#### Action Items

- **Jen:**
  - Email Bill Loyd with completed advocacy worksheets
  - Draft Letter from the OCTF to Iowa's AG