

Iowa's Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Committees

Executive Committee

Mission (from the By-Laws):

- 2.1.C: To organize as a proactive and effectively working Taskforce
- 2.1.D: To educate Iowans about the Olmstead Decision and its implications for public policy in Iowa.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce, and chairs and co-chairs from each of the other subcommittees. The Executive Committee is responsible for reviewing the application to become a voting member of the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce, identifying strategies to recruit, retain, and encouraging members to apply for officer positions (chair, secretary, etc.) on the Taskforce and the committees.

Meetings

Meets 6 times per year, opposite the months of the Full Taskforce Meetings (February, April, June, August, October, December) on the second Monday of the month.

Olmstead Plan Committee

Mission (from the By-Laws):

- 2.1.A: To monitor Iowa's response to the US Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision and to collaborate with state agencies in the implementation of Olmstead in Iowa.
- 2.1.H: To assist and encourage the departments and agencies of the state of Iowa to ensure compliance with the Olmstead Decision.

In 2009 the Department of Human Services began development of a new DHS State Olmstead Plan for Mental Health and Disability Services. The Taskforce was asked to offer stakeholder input into the Plan. Public meetings were held across the state to hear from people with disabilities, their families, advocates and providers about what it takes for people to live successfully in the community. The original Olmstead Plan was completed early in 2011, with the promise the Taskforce would receive regular updates on its implementation.

The Olmstead Plan Committee works with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services to consider revisions, outcome measurements, and usage of the Olmstead Plan (e.g., how to get data that better reflects the experiences of Iowans with disabilities).

Meetings

Meets 6 times per year, same months of the Full Taskforce Meetings (January, March, May, July, September, November) on the first Friday of the month.

Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee

Mission (from the By-Laws):

- 2.1.E: To inform and advise policy makers about the needs, rights, and preferences of Iowans with disabilities and long-term care needs.
- 2.1.F: To monitor existing laws and pending legislation and make recommendations to promote consistency with the Olmstead Decision.

The Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee monitors anything related to Medicaid and Disability policy at the state and federal level, including the actions of managed care organizations, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, legislators, state code, and experiences of and impact on Iowans with disabilities.

Meetings

Meet 8 times per year, bi-monthly with 2 additional meetings during the legislative session (January, February, April, June, August, October, December) on the third Thursday of the month (with the exception of the 2 additional meetings scheduled closer to the time).

Community Access Committee

Mission (from the By-Laws):

- 2.1.B: To advocate for Iowans with disabilities and long-term care needs.
- 2.1.G: To support systems-change that promotes choice, fairness, equity, accessibility and availability of individualized services for people with disabilities and long-term care needs.

The Community Access Committee monitors issues that impact Iowans with disabilities and their ability to live in the community. Issues such as housing, transportation, parking, ramps, and anything related to accessibility for all Iowans in any community.

Meetings

Meets 12 times per year, once monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.