

**OCTF Medicaid and Legislative Watch Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 20, 2025**

**In Attendance:** Bill Loyd (Chair), Harriet Gulbranson (voting member), Megz Stroback (voting member), Laura Leise (HHS), Falcia Beck (staff support)

**Excused:** David Thielen (voting member), Kelly Stull (voting member)

**Absent Voting Members:** Michael Martin

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**PowerPoint Slides** – see attached

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**Updated Status of Bills of Interest**

**1) Employment**

a. [Work Without Worry Act](#)

- i) Plan to present to both the Iowa House and Iowa Senate on February 27

**2) Medicaid**

a. **Iowa**

- i) A budget increase is proposed for this year ([HF 13](#)) – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**  
(1) Threatened by what happens at the federal level

b. **Federal**

- i) Per Capita Caps discussions are ongoing – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**

**3) Availability of Services/Capacity**

a. Section 504 lawsuit – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**

- i) Press Release from Attorney General Bird  
(1) [Attorney General Bird Emphasizes Commitment to Protecting Section 504 Accommodations for Kids with D | Newsroom | Iowa Attorney General](#)

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**Call to Action**

- Call for all Olmstead Consumer Taskforce voting members to complete at least one action step by the next OCTF large group meeting (Friday, March 14)
  - **504 lawsuit being filed by Iowa and 16 other states.** The executive committee of the OCTF is sending the attached letter to the state Attorney General. We are asking that **BY TOMORROW, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup>, individual members can** use the OCTF AG Letter from the executive committee (attached) to email Attorney General Bird and encourage her to drop out of the Section 504 lawsuit. The email address to which your comments can be sent is: [comment@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:comment@ag.iowa.gov) or [webteam@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:webteam@ag.iowa.gov) (you can use either or both).
  - **Pending legislation currently in the Iowa legislature: By Thursday, March 13:** Use Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council's [TAKE ACTION CENTER](#) to use any one or all of their prefilled templates to contact your representatives about issues on slides 6-9 of the attached that matter to you. To do so, click on the box of an issue you would like to email about, review your profile making sure it has all the correct information about you, personalize your message with a personal story, and hit the green button that says, "Send Message".
  - **Proposed changes to Medicaid at the Federal Level:**
    - **By Thursday, March 13:** Use ANCOR's Protect Medicaid [TAKE ACTION TOOL](#). This will send you to a website with a prefilled email message. You can either use the message as it is or write in additional comments (things like how this would affect you or

others). All you would have to do is review your profile and if the information is correct, you can push the orange button that says, "Send Message". Or,

- **By Thursday, March 13:** Use The Arc's [SAVE MEDICAID CAMPAIGN TOOL](#). This link will send you to a website with a prefilled email message. You can either use the message as it is or write in additional comments (things like how this would affect you or others). All you would have to do is fill in your information and push the purple button that says, "Send Email".
- **By Thursday, March 13:** As suggested by IACP, call the "Hands Off Medicaid Hotline" at 866-426-2631 to make sure your federal congressional representatives understand the importance of Medicaid to you as a constituent and to people across Iowa. Once you dial in, give your zip code. Your call will be automatically directed to your representative. You may either speak with a staff member or be directed to voicemail. If you reach voicemail, please leave a message with your name and zip code.

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### Medicaid Education Session

- Will connect with Iowa Medicaid to request a Medicaid Basics training and current updates

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### Building Legislative Champions and Advocacy Partners Over Time

- Zoom calls, visits, and invitations to OCTF meetings outside of session with legislators to build relationships, explain who we are and share our areas of interest/stories.
- Potential Champions and Partners
  - Rep. Elizabeth Wilson – Bill has contacted
  - Rep. Josh Turek – Bill has contacted
  - Rep. Chad Ingles – Bill has contacted
  - Rep. Barb Kniff McCulla
  - Sen. Art Staed – Bill has contacted
  - Sen. Zach Wahls
  - AUCD

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### Next Steps for the Subcommittee

- Begin identifying and developing stories aligned with target legislation
- Determine availability for visits to Des Moines and presence in forums that give legislative updates
  - IACP - March 27 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Continue to identify advocacy tools and best practices

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### Action Items

- **Falicia:**
  - Invite Legislative Champions to OCTF meetings
- **Bill:**
  - Reach out to identified Legislative Champions
  - Once Work without Worry draft is released, share with OCTF