

Olmstead Consumer Task Force

Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2025
10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Held Virtually

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Pakkebier (Chair)	Marc Hines
Joel Vander Molen (Vice Chair)	Bill Loyd
Amy Desenberg-Wines	Brittney Montross
Edward Esbeck	Jen Simmering
Greg Fier	Kelly Stull
Ernie Geiger	David Thielen
Harriet Gulbranson	Jessica Williams

OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amber Alaniz-Stiles (excused)	Michael Martin (excused)
Michelle Allmandinger (excused)	Megz Stroback (excused)
Garret Frey	Joey Wesselink

STAFF SUPPORT:

Falicia Beck

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Teresa Bomhoff	Todd Lange
Mari Brown	Brooke Lovelace
Morgan Casey	Megan Marsh
Paula Connolly	Koki Nakagawa
Anne Crotty	Caitlin Owens
Ben Grauer	Lisa Schneider
June Klein-Bacon	Danielle Workman

Materials Referenced

Olmstead Consumer Task Force January 10th, 2025, Meeting Agenda DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force November 1st, 2024, Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force 2025 Legislative Priorities PowerPoint

Welcome and Introductions

Joel Vander Molen, Olmstead Consumer Task Force (OCTF) vice chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established at 10:04 am.

Review & Vote on Approval of January 10th, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Joel Vander Molen, OCTF vice chair, opened the floor to invite revisions to the January agenda, no revisions stated. Harriet Gulbranson made a motion to approve the January 10th, 2025 meeting agenda. Bill Loyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Joel Vander Molen, OCTF vice chair, opened the floor to approve the November meeting minutes. No revisions stated. Marc Hines made a motion to approve the November 1st, 2024 meeting minutes. Amy Desenberg-Wines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

State Agency Updates

Laura Leise, Aging and Disability Services, shared she is the one who filled the position that recently was held by Connie Fanselow. Laura will be eased into her role with one of her top priorities being updating the Olmstead Plan. She stated one of her top priorities will be updating the Olmstead Plan for Iowa which will incorporate the consent decrees when conversations are completed about the Department of Justice investigation, and the information has been shared with the public. The date for the completion of the consent decree is still unknown.

Megan Marsh, Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), updated the Taskforce that after the waitlist had been cleared at the end of the fiscal year, there was an influx in applicants which has created another waitlist of eight to ten months.

Krys Purscell, Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), informed the Taskforce of the recent update to the SILC and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) state plan (SPIL – Iowa State Plan for Independent Living) including the ongoing collection of data of the needs of Iowans. The SILC will be revising the assessment and will share this after their upcoming quarterly meeting (January 16, 2025).

Iowa Health and Human Services Updates – Laura Leise, Aging and Disability Services

Laura Leise, Aging and Disability Services, provided the link to the Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) System webpage (<https://hhs.iowa.gov/initiatives/system-alignment>) and drew special attention to the public forums that would be held January 14, 2025 and January 16, 2025.

OCTF Legislative Priorities and Advocacy – Bill Loyd, OCTF Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee Chair

Bill Loyd made a call for more participation within the Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee. He then shared the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Legislative Priorities Recommendations slides (attached).

Published priorities from similar advocacy groups were reviewed to include the Iowa

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council, The Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP), and the previous year's priorities from Iowa's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities(UCEDD)/ Iowa's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (ILEND).

Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council, was asked to share any possible corrections or updates on the DD Council's legislative priorities. Brooke provided the link to the DD Council's Public Policy Priorities: <https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/public-policy-agenda>. She also notified the Taskforce of multiple legislative events hosted through the DD Council, one of which was recorded, the link is here: <https://youtu.be/nu-w0g58Ehw?si=BrV1FrYlctEGP5p1>. The other events can be found here: <https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/calendar>.

Marc Hines, OCTF Nominations Chair and Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP) member, was asked for any possible corrections or updates on the IACP legislative priorities. Marc clarified the \$8.54 million in rate increases was intended to be more focused for intermittent services, not simply for 24-hour services. The link to IACP's legislative one pager is here: <https://theiacp.memberclicks.net/assets/LegislativePriorities2025.pdf>.

Caitlin Owens, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), was invited to share any possible corrections or updates on Iowa's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (ILEND) legislative priorities. Caitlin explained the UCEDD and ILEND typically build their priorities off the DD Council's priorities and often partners with the University of Iowa Realizing Educational and Career Hopes (UI REACH).

Priorities from national organizations: [ANCOR](#) legislative priorities for the federal policies and position statements from [The Arc](#) were also briefly reviewed.

Upon review of all the above referenced priorities from local and national organizations, the three primary focus areas proposed for OCTF were: Medicaid, Employment, and Availability and Capacity of Services all in relation to Iowans with disabilities. Voting members of the Taskforce approved and prioritized these three areas via electronic voting with the caveat that the Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee would identify pending legislation in the current session for immediate advocacy and will launch education efforts for elected officials for these same priority areas over the course of the entire year.

Next steps were suggested to identify OCTF voting members with real life examples of the impacts of these priorities, develop legislative champions over the course of the year, and partner with area organizations on advocacy days in Des Moines.

Taskforce Committee Reports

Joel Vander Molen, OCTF vice chair, reminded the Taskforce of the updated plan for the subcommittees to share meeting minutes that will be uploaded to this webpage: <https://www.olmsteadrealchoicesia.org/about/committee-meeting-minutes/>.

Marc Hines, OCTF Nominations chair, informed the Taskforce of an upcoming Nominations Committee meeting and a request for applications to be submitted by Friday, January 24 to be considered for this round of candidates.

Amy Desenberg-Wines, OCTF Olmstead Plan chair, notified the Taskforce of the next Olmstead Plan meeting which will be held on zoom on Friday, February 7 from 11am – 12pm. Amy invited all to join and to email the OCTF staff support, Falcia Beck (falcia-beck@uiowa.edu) if interested.

Public Comment

Caitlin Owens, UCEDD, humbly shared her new role as the Director of the UCEDD.

Caitlin also informed the Taskforce of the recent announcement of the UCEDD being named the provider for the Iowa Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Technical Assistance and Call Center. Compass has been an integral entity of the UCEDD since 1986 and will provide the resources for the ADRC Call Center. The ADRC Technical Assistance will provide a hub of training for the workforce and providers of Aging and Disability Services.

Caitlin provided information on the newly released course “Providing Quality Care for People with Disabilities” which is a free, on-line, self-paced course and is open to the public. The link to sign up for the course is here:

<https://learn.uiowa.edu/browse/coe/cddlend/courses/providing-quality-healthcare-disabilities>.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 am.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Falcia Beck.