

# **Olmstead Consumer Task Force**

Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2025  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Held Virtually

## **OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joel Vander Molen (Vice Chair)  
Amy Desenberg-Wines  
Edward Esbeck  
Greg Fier  
Garret Frey  
Ernie Geiger  
Harriet Gulbranson

Bill Loyd  
Michael Martin  
Brittney Montross  
Jen Simmering  
Megz Stroback  
Kelly Stull  
Jessica Williams

## **OLMSTEAD CONSUMER TASK FORCE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Amber Alaniz-Stiles  
Michelle Allmandinger (excused)  
Marc Hines (excused)

David Thielen  
Joey Wesselink (excused)  
Lisa Pakkebier (Chair) (excused)

## **STAFF SUPPORT:**

Falicia Beck

## **OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Erin Barkema  
Mari Brown  
Katrina Carter  
Paula Connolly  
Anne Crotty  
Katie Damon  
June Klein-Bacon

Todd Lange  
Laura Leise  
Koki Nakagawa  
Caitlin Owens  
Maggie Pickett  
Andria Pooley  
Jorg Westermann

### **Materials Referenced**

Olmstead Consumer Task Force March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Agenda DRAFT  
Olmstead Consumer Task Force January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes DRAFT  
Iowa Health and Human Services Process for Olmstead Plan Slides 3.14.2025  
Iowa Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services Updates 3.14.2025  
Iowa Health and Human Services Disability Access Points Map  
Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee Slides 2.20.2025  
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council's Medicaid Letter to Congress 3.14.2025

### **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 March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Agenda**

Joel Vander Molen, OCTF vice chair, opened the floor to invite revisions to the March agenda, no revisions stated. Harriet Gulbranson made a motion to approve the March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting agenda. Michael Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review & Vote on Approval of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Joel Vander Molen, OCTF vice chair, opened the floor to approve the January meeting minutes. No revisions stated. Megz Stroback made a motion to approve the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes. Bill Loyd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Iowa Health and Human Services Process for Olmstead Plan – Katie Damon and Erin Barkema, Bureau of Performance and Operations**

Katie Damon, Bureau of Performance and Operations, and Erin Barkema, Bureau of Performance and Operations, shared the Iowa Health and Human Services Process for Olmstead Plan slides (attached). It was clarified that the proposed draft slide was more of a suggestion, the assessment and review periods are the elements the team welcomes any and all feedback, and the team has set an importance on methods of monitoring the plan and determining quality of life measures. For any further questions, both Katie's and Erin's contact information is on the last slide.

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

Laura Leise, Aging and Disability Services, shared the Iowa Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services Updates document (attached) and expressed the importance of attending the listening sessions and town halls to provide feedback on the different statewide changes happening in the multiple state agencies.

### **July In-Person Meeting Discussion – OCTF Executive Committee**

Bill Loyd proposed the Olmstead Consumer Taskforce host another in-person meeting in July. Discussion regarding the location (i.e., Iowa City, Des Moines) and timing of the meeting and breaks determined either location would be acceptable and there would be a need for extended time to accommodate for an external lunch. Greg Fier suggested providing a better method of audio and visual for the in-person attendees so members unable to attend in-person can hear and see those attendees more clearly. Bill Loyd suggested the use of an OWL device and offered to bring the UI REACH device for the July meeting.

## **OCTF Call to Action Follow-Up and Next Steps – Bill Loyd, OCTF Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee Chair**

Bill Loyd drew special attention to slide 13 of the previous Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee's meeting slides (attached) discussing the request for legislative action by OCTF voting members. Bill started by sharing his legislative efforts and Edward Esbeck, Harriet Gulbranson, Joel Vander Molen, Amy Desenberg-Wines, Greg Fier, and Megz Stroback all updated the experiences from their legislative actions.

### **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/>.

Bill Loyd, OCTF Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee chair, proposed the Executive Committee's nomination for Mari Brown to fill the current open voting member seat. All six voting members on the Executive Committee had motioned and approved the nomination, the motion passed unanimously. Mari Brown could begin her role in the Taskforce immediately as she was filling an already vacant seat. The beginning of her three-year term will begin October 1, 2025.

Bill Loyd, OCTF Medicaid & Legislative Watch Committee chair, discussed the additional meeting held by the Executive Committee to evaluate the OCTF By-Laws and determined for efficiency of the Taskforce to move the Nominations Committee to the Executive Committee and have four subcommittees, three of which are open to all voting members and the public. These committees are: Executive Committee, Olmstead Plan Committee (open to the public), Community Access Committee (open to the public), and Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee (open to the public).

Joel Vander Molen, OCTF vice chair, shared with the change of the Nominations Committee to then vote for a Secretary for the OCTF to cover the typical duties of the Nominations chair. Megz Stroback motioned for Marc Hines to be the Secretary of the OCTF. Amy Desenberg-Wines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

June Klein-Bacon, Brain Injury Alliance Iowa, shared information for the Brain Injury Hill Day that will be held at the Iowa Capitol on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2 pm. More information can be found at this website: <https://biaia.org/events/>. The link to register for the event is here: <https://biai.memberclicks.net/hillday2025#!/>

Mari Brown, ASK Resource Center, informed the Taskforce of the upcoming Together We Can Conference that will be held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:15 am – 4:00 pm. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.askresource.org/togetherwecan>.

Paula Connolly shared the Arc of Iowa received funds from the will of Julie Beckett, a long-time disability advocate. The Arc of Iowa is working to use that money to provide advocacy learning experiences for Iowans with disabilities and their families and are forming an application process and will notify the OCTF staff support when that application is available.

Kelly Stull, Vocational Rehabilitation, informed the Taskforce of the Transition Resource Fair that will be held Thursday, October 9 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. More information will be coming closer to the event.

Michael Martin, self-advocate, notified the Taskforce of the closure of SureCare Home Care

services in the Des Moines area, this is a program that provided in-home care services to Michael and other lowans with disabilities in the Des Moines area. He plans to move to Golden Angel Corporation on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Martin, OCTF voting member, motioned for the OCTF to sign Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council's Medicaid Letter to Congress. Jen Simmering seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Staff support was tasked with informing Brooke Lovelace from Iowa's DD Council of the vote.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Falicia Beck.

DRAFT