

OCTF Community Access Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

April 9th, 2025

In Attendance Megz Stroback, Greg Fier, Joel Vander Molen, Jennifer Simmering, Ernie Geiger, Laura Leise, Andria Pooley (staff support), Falicia Beck (staff support)

Absent Voting Members: Michael Martin, Brittney Montross, Amber Alaniz Stiles, Edward Esbeck, Jessica Williams

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

Discussion Items

1. Strategic Goal Discussion

Goal 2.1.B: *To advocate for lowans with disabilities and long-term care needs*

- Action Steps discussed (details to be developed further)

Goal 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*

- Action Steps discussed (details to be developed further)

2. Chair/Vice Chair Discussion

- Jen Simmering expressed feeling overwhelmed and suggested the possibility of another member stepping into the Chair role or creating a Vice Chair position.

3. Section 504 Lawsuit Petition

- Jen shared information about the recent 504 lawsuit petition.
- A news article covered the story of Tommy and his father, including commentary from Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird.
- [Link to Article](#)

4. Olmstead Plan Update

- Laura shared that a draft version is underway
- She plans to present it at the full Task Force meeting in May

- Draft will be a Word document for initial review and feedback
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Action Ideas

- Improve website accessibility
- Encourage federal legislators to avoid Medicaid cuts
- Greg committed to posting his story on the DD Council website
- Add “How to Caption a Zoom Meeting” tutorial to the website
- Upload parking guidance to the website
- Add member stories to the website