

## OCTF Community Access Committee Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025

---

**In Attendance:** Ernie Geiger, Greg Fier, Jessica Williams, Joel Vander Molen, Laura Leise, Megz Stroback, Kelly Stull, Edward Esbeck, Michelle Allmandinger, Andria Pooley (staff support)

**Absent Voting Members:** Amber Alaniz-Stiles, Brittney Montross, Michael Martin, Harriet Gulbranson, Jennifer Simmering

---

### Reports and Updates

- **Joel Vander Molen** reported he contacted a legislator regarding IABLE (Iowa ABLE savings program) funding.
- **Megz Stroback** shared news that individuals were arrested at the U.S. Capitol during protests over proposed Medicaid cuts.

### Summer Plans and Public Engagement

- Members discussed summer outreach efforts:
  - **Goal:** Increase visibility of people with disabilities through community engagement.
  - Attend public events and meet with legislators.
  - Share personal stories that highlight the value of disability services (e.g., “Because of this program, I was able to...”).
  - **Jessica Williams:** Suggested hosting a “Take Your Legislator to Work Day” at her workplace in October.
  - **Joel:** Emphasized importance of discussing with legislators how programs enable people to attend school and access opportunities.
  - **Kelly Stull:** Proposed collecting videos and photos of people with disabilities participating in various activities for a visual compilation.
  - **Edward Esbeck:** Suggested connecting with allies and advocates and inviting them to meetings.
    - **Action Item:** Ed will invite a potential guest to a future meeting.

- **Greg Fier:** Discussed importance of creating accessible public spaces (e.g., parks).

### **Accessibility Projects and ADA Compliance Concerns**

- **Greg** raised awareness about conflicting ADA compliance regulations (e.g., varying rules about parking spot dimensions).
  - Noted concerns about accessibility at rural businesses like Dollar General, which may be grandfathered in under older codes.
    - **Kelly:** Suggested contacting the ADA to clarify legality and report concerns.
  - Committee emphasized the importance of reaching out to business owners about improving accessibility.

### **Olmstead Plan Feedback**

- **Laura Leise** requested feedback on the draft Olmstead Plan.
  - Suggested dividing the plan among committee members for review.
    - **Action Item:** Megz and Greg will create a Google Doc to organize and assign sections for review.

---

### **Action Items**

- Look at community spaces that may need accessibility updates.
- Contact businesses to discuss improvements in accessibility.
- Collect photos and videos from summer activities involving individuals with disabilities.
- Ed to invite a guest advocate to a future meeting.
- Megz and Greg to create and share a Google Doc to divide Olmstead Plan sections for committee review.
- Reach out to advocacy allies and invite them to join the June 11 meeting.
  - Andria and Ed will coordinate on outreach.