

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.
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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.