

Community Access Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: July 9, 2025

Attendees: Harriet Gulbranson, Ernie Geiger, Joel Vander Molen, Kelly Stull, Megz Strobeck, Edward Esbeck, Garret Frey, Laura Leise (HHS), Andria Pooley (Staff Support)

Discussion: Olmstead Plan Draft – Access to Services & Life in the Community Sections

Access to Services Section

- **Subpoint i:** Language revision recommended — change from “divert people from unnecessarily accessing segregated settings” to a more inclusive, affirmative framing.
 - Suggestions include:
 - Remove the word "segregated" due to its historical context.
 - Use alternatives like “least restrictive environment” or “least restricted environment.”
 - Use affirming language like “remain in their community settings.”
 - Suggest this language to the full group on Friday.
- **Subset c (schools and AEA responsibilities):**
 - Clarified that this *does* fall under HHS jurisdiction since Olmstead is a state plan.
- **Rural Representation:**
 - Identified lack of rural data.
 - Feedback: Explore how to measure service usage across rural and urban areas.
- **Crisis Services (Subpoint i):**
 - Suggest listing “the most effective measure for crisis services” after defining what crisis services include.
- **Transportation:**
 - Recommendation to add transportation under subpoint a).

- **Healthcare Access:**

- Address the need to explicitly reference healthcare barriers, particularly in rural areas.
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Life in the Community Section

- **Income and Financial Barriers:**

- Recommendation to include:
 - Financial stability/income stability as a goal.
 - Metrics: tracking access to IABLE accounts.
 - Financial literacy education.

- **Sub-Minimum Wage:**

- Although technically not allowed, sub-minimum wage practices are still occurring in 2–3 locations. Phasing out in Iowa.

- **Work Requirements:**

- Clarified that work requirements do *not* apply to people with disabilities.
- Concerns raised about public understanding of what constitutes a "disability" (e.g., legal definition only?).

- **Language:**

- Noted repeated use of “segregation” in subpoint ii — recommend updating terminology.

- **Person-Centered Language:**

- Emphasis on highlighting strengths and aptitudes in plain language.

- **Inclusive Wording:**

- Ensure nothing important is excluded.
- Include phrasing like “not limited to” for flexibility and inclusivity.

- **Plan Review Cycle:**

- The plan will be reviewed and updated annually based on systems changes and developments.
- Emphasis on making the plan adaptive and responsive.

- **Subject Matter Experts:**

- Noted the importance of input from taskforce members, who are subject matter experts.

- **Asset Limits:**

- Acknowledged variation in asset limits across individuals.
- Laura suggested inviting presenters to educate the taskforce on this issue.

Next Steps:

- Bring suggestions on language changes to the full group Friday.
- Continue identifying language improvements and clarity for final draft.
- Identify potential speakers for future meetings (regarding asset limits and work policies).
- HHS will continue cross-referencing with other state plans.