

Olmstead Community Access Committee Meeting Notes

Date: August 6, 2025

Attendees:

Paula Connolly, Megz Stroback, Joel Vander Molen, Jessica Williams, Ernie Geiger, Edward Esbeck, Andria Pooley (Staff Support)

1. Medicaid Budget Cuts

- Discussion on proposed cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.
 - These changes may not go into effect until 2027.
 - Work requirements for eligibility could begin as early as January.
 - Reimbursement rates for states are expected to be reduced by nearly 50%.
 - Potential for reimbursement caps was discussed.
 - There are concerns about the impact on vulnerable populations.
 - **Action:** Paula will forward an article to Andria outlining the current implications.
 - Waiver reforms have been postponed, originally planned for 2026.
 - **HOME Project Comments:**
 - HHS will be posting written comments for public response on their website.
 - Committee discussed whether to prepare a response when available.
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2. Transportation Issues with SEATS (Led by Ernie Geiger)

- The University of Iowa opened a new orthopedic hospital in North Liberty.
 - SEATS currently only provides service at 7am, 11am, and 5pm.
 - Inadequate service has forced individuals (like Ernie) to rely on Uber.
 - SEATS claims it cannot serve North Liberty due to lack of a contract.
- **Discussion Points:**
 - Advocacy opportunities include involving case managers.
 - Committee may write a letter and collect multiple signatures.

- Suggested outreach:
 - Get Steindler to write a support letter.
 - Contact Angela McConville, Special Projects Coordinator (319-626-5722, amcconville@northlibertyiowa.org)
 - She has been involved in local transportation advocacy and may offer helpful insights.
 - Reach out to Kirk, ADA Coordinator for Iowa City. (319-356-5014 or email ADAcoordinator@iowa-city.org).
 - Ernie will continue advocacy via email and connect with Steindler.
 - Other members will also stay involved via email outreach.
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3. Olmstead Allies and Advocacy Collaboration

- Opportunity to work with allies and advocates.
 - Contact Ed for connections.
 - Discussion on ways to better advocate for individuals with disabilities.
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4. Olmstead Plan Update

- Reaching out to various divisions within HHS and private organizations.
 - A data crosswalk has been created and compiled into a spreadsheet.
 - Laura is preparing a presentation of goals and metrics for measurement.
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6. Action Items

- **Andria** to add these topics to the next Executive Committee agenda.
- **Ernie/Everyone** will reach out regarding North Liberty Campus Transportation
- **Laura** will prepare a presentation of goals and metrics (data)
- **Ed** will explore working with Allies and Advocacy