

Olmstead Consumer Task Force

Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2025
10am to 12:30pm
Held Virtually

Olmstead Consumer Task Force Members Present:

Lisa Pakkebier (Chair)	Harriet Gulbranson
Joel Vander Molen (Vice Chair)	Marc Hines
Michelle Allmandinger	Brittney Montross
Mari Brown	Megz Stroback
Greg Fier	Jessica Williams
Ernie Geiger	

Olmstead Consumer Task Force Members Absent:

Amber Alaniz-Stiles	Jen Simmering
Edward Esbeck (Excused)	Kelly Stull (Excused)
Garret Frey	David Theilen (Excused)
Bill Loyd (Excused)	Joey Wesselink (Excused)
Michael Martin (Excused)	

Staff Support:

Andria Pooley

Other Attendees:

Katrina Carter	Maggie Pickett
Anne Crotty	Mary Roberts
Julie Gibbon	Lindsey Robertson
Todd Lange	Christina Smith
Laura Leise	Brooke Sutton
Brooke Lovelace	Kimberley Walford
Megan Marsh	Elizabeth Wolfe
Koki Nakagawa	

Materials Referenced

Olmstead Consumer Task Force May 9th, 2025, Meeting Agenda DRAFT

Olmstead Consumer Task Force March 14th, 2025 Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Olmstead Consumer Task Force Plan, DRAFT

Welcome and Introductions

Joel Vander Molen, Olmstead Consumer Task Force (OCTF) vice chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established at 10:04 am.

Review & Vote on Approval of May 9th, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Joel Vander Molen (OCTF vice chair) opened the floor to invite revisions to the May agenda, no revisions stated. Marc Hines made a motion to approve the May 9th, 2025 meeting agenda. Mari Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review & Vote on Approval of March 14th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Joel Vander Molen (OCTF vice chair) opened the floor to approve the March meeting minutes. No revisions stated. Michelle Allmandinger made a motion to approve the March 14th, 2025 meeting minutes. Ernie Geiger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recap of March Action Items

Marc Hines (Crossroads Advocacy): Section 504 update. ~1200 signatures collected. The immediate response to the Olmstead letter was not favorable. However, the current position is that Section 504 is not under threat.

Laura Leise (Iowa HHS): Independent town halls scheduled. Next one is May 14 at 4 PM. The series begins July 1.

State Agency Reports

Kim Walford (Iowa Department for the Blind): New appointment: Stacy Cervenka, who starts on July 7. The state budget is progressing in the legislature.

Mari Brown (ASK Resource): The State Rehabilitation Council director resigned. Beth Townsend is serving as interim director.

Lindsey Robertson (MFP Update): Individuals transitioning from facility-based settings must meet a 60-day qualifying residency. Medicaid with LTSS benefit applies. Suggestion made to include Lindsey in Olmstead Plan Committee discussions. General Information: [Money Follows the Person \(MFP\) | Health & Human Services](#) Waiver waitlist information: [Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Waivers Program | Health & Human Services](#)

Olmstead Plan Draft

Laura Leise (Iowa HHS): Laura presented the plan and asked for comment. During the discussion, Mari Brown (ASK Resource) emphasized the importance of health equity and recommended integrating goals from other state agencies into the Olmstead Plan. She also suggested that HHS coordinate more closely with agencies such as the Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation to ensure a comprehensive approach. Laura Ingleby (Iowa Department on Aging) is assisting with refining data related to aging and disability to better inform the plan. Joel Vander Molen (OCTF Vice Chair) raised a point about language in the plan, suggesting that the word “meaningful” be reconsidered and possibly replaced with “self-directed” to better reflect individual autonomy. Ann Crotty (HHS ADA Coordinator) shared that a link to 504 requirements be included in the medical education info ([Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Final Rule: Section by Section Fact Sheet for Recipients of Financial Assistance from HHS | HHS.gov](#)). Marc Hines (OCTF Secretary) highlighted the need for improved medical student training on disability awareness, while Joel added that efforts are underway to integrate such content into college curricula, although he noted there has been resistance. The group also discussed the importance of ensuring all key items are included in the final version of the Olmstead Plan.

Stakeholders were encouraged to email Laura (laura-leise@hhs.iowa.gov) with any additional feedback.

July OCTF Meeting; Possibility of In-Person

Lisa Pakkebieer (OCTF Chair): We will hold the in-person meeting at the Coralville Public Library on July 11th, from 10am-2pm, only if at least half of the voting members can attend. If we are unable to reach quorum, we will move to a virtual meeting.

Public Comment

Greg Fier: Shared immersive virtual meeting technology ("Owl") from Clinton – camera tracks speaker movements. (Andria to explore further.)

Joel Vander Molen (OCTF Vice Chair): Legislative update on IABLE accounts.

Budget Discussion: 50% funding cut in special education between House and Senate proposals.

Call to Action

Voting members to contact local legislators and schedule meetings to discuss OCTF priorities.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:41

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Andria Pooley