

Olmstead Consumer Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 11, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:04 PM

Location: Virtual

Olmstead Consumer Task Force Members Present:

Lisa Pakkebier (Chair)
Michelle Allmandinger
Mari Brown
Greg Fier
Ernie Geiger
Harriet Gulbranson

Bill Loyd
Brittney Montross
Megz Stroback
Jessica Williams

Voting Members Absent:

Amber Alaniz
Ed Esbeck (Excused)
Garret Frey (Excused)
Marc Hines (Excused)

Michael Martin (Excused)
Kelly Stull (Excused)
Joel Vander Molen (Excused)
Joey Wesselink

Staff Support:

Andria Pooley

Other Attendees:

Falicia Beck
Anne Crotty
Carlyn Crowe
Megan Henning
Laura Leise (HHS)
Patti Manna
Megan Marsh
Koki Nakagawa

Caitlin Owens
Lindsey Robertson
Zachary Rhein (HHS)
Lisa Schneider
Todd Lange
Brooke Lovelace
Kim Walford
June Klein-Bacon

Materials Referenced

Olmstead Consumer Task Force July 11th, 2025 Meeting Agenda DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force May 9th, 2025 Meeting Minutes DRAFT
Olmstead Consumer Task Force Plan, DRAFT
ADRC for Olmstead Consumer Task Force, Slides

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Pakkebier, Olmstead Consumer Task Force (OCTF) chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. thanking the Task Force and the public for their attendance.

Review & Vote on Approval of July 11th, 2025 Meeting Agenda

Quorum was established at 10:50 AM. Lisa Pakkebier (OCTF chair), opened the floor to invite revisions to the July agenda, no revisions stated. Greg Fier motioned to approve the July 11th, 2025 agenda. Michell Allmandinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Lisa Pakkebier (OCTF chair), opened the floor to invite revisions to the May minutes. Lisa Pakkebier made one revision to remove REM Iowa from behind her name. Harriet Gulbranson motioned to approve May minutes with one revision. Greg Fier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Voting Member Recap of May Action Items

Bill Loyd (UI REACH): reported on UI REACH trips to Washington, D.C., and Des Moines. Although a scholarship bill did not pass, the trips were successful in engaging with legislators. Future action item: Invite elected officials to campus in September to show the importance of college inclusion for people with disabilities

State Agency Reports

Kim Walford (Iowa Department for the Blind): New Director: Stacey Cervenka, who has lived experience with blindness, started recently.

HHS Updates

Laura Leise (HHS Aging and Disability Services): Disability Access Points (DAPs) are now open and actively serving individuals across Iowa. Public outreach efforts are underway through TV, radio, and social media to ensure communities are aware of the services available. Individuals interested in shaping the direction of DAPs can explore opportunities to join the advisory board by contacting Laura Leise at laura.leise@hhs.iowa.gov. Additionally, town halls are being held to provide ongoing updates and foster community engagement.

The REACH and HOME initiatives are continuing as planned.

The waiver redesign process has restarted – more information to come.

ADRC System Overview

Zachary Rhein (HHS ADRC System): The new Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) system is designed to streamline services and access points for individuals with disabilities and aging populations. Information about the Public Advisory Council will be shared soon. During recent Q&A and discussions, several key points emerged. Assessments will be conducted by service coordinators at the Disability Access Points (DAPs), with a poverty threshold set at 200%. Those interested in participating on advisory committees are encouraged to contact their local DAP directly. Additional information is forthcoming regarding how assessments will address the needs of individuals with brain injuries. Substance use disorder will fall under long-term services and supports (LTSS), with coding anticipated, although specific guidelines from HHS have not yet been provided. For individuals transitioning from Integrated Health Homes (IHH), DAPs will assist with connecting them to appropriate services. Concerns raised included short-term funding needs for rent and utilities (noted by Michelle Allmandinger), the need for clearer guidance on paperwork and service continuation (Megan Henning), and reports of general satisfaction and smooth transitions (Megz Stroback). Members encouraged to contact their local access points with additional questions or concerns.

Olmstead Plan Draft Discussion

Laura Leise from HHS: Led a discussion on the draft of the Olmstead Plan, requesting feedback on the identified impact areas. A key focus was the “Access to Services” section, including how it aligns with other existing plans through a crosswalk approach. Attendees emphasized the importance of clearly defining supported employment and transportation within the plan. It was noted that the plan will include measurable goals and be treated as a “living document” that can evolve over time. Members were encouraged to complete the survey to provide input, and future meetings will continue to revisit and refine this topic. Survey Link: [Qualtrics Survey For Olmstead Plan Draft](#)

Committee Reports

Lisa Pakkebier (OCTF Chair): Committee minutes linked via Iowa Olmstead Consumer Taskforce page: [Committee Meeting Minutes | Iowa Olmstead Consumer Taskforce](#)

Public Comment

Lindsey Robertson – Money Follows the Person (MFP): Mikayla Rosenthal has joined the team as the new housing specialist, offering support with housing assistance, home modifications, utilities, and more. The June semi-annual partner meeting was successfully held, and the operational protocol has been submitted to CMS, with an update expected by the end of the year. Efforts to expand support are underway with the hiring of three new transition specialists—two in Central Iowa and one in Eastern Iowa. As of June, 48

transitions have been completed. For more information, including data and success stories, refer to the “Possibilities_Spring25.pdf” document.

June Klein-Bacon: As of July 1, the Brain Injury Alliance has officially transitioned to the Brain Injury Association of Iowa, with services remaining consistent throughout the change. The Brain Injury Resource Facilitation program continues to operate and provide support. HHS is now overseeing an ad-hoc brain injury committee and is actively seeking individuals with lived or family experience to participate. For more information, visit www.biaia.org.

Caitlin Owens: Collecting stories on the impact of DD Network organizations and Medicaid for potential media use: [Qualtrics Story Form](#)

Call to Action

Bill Loyd: It was emphasized that now is a critical time to connect with legislators, and several key questions were raised for consideration: What is the impact of new legislation on Iowans? What actions can be taken? In response, Iowa Advocacy Partners are developing a document that outlines the impacts of recent legislation. Tools will also be distributed to help individuals effectively engage with their legislators. Focus areas moving forward include building relationships, educating and informing critical partners, collaborating and forming coalitions, and preparing for the upcoming legislative session.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Andria Pooley