

## **Olmstead Consumer Task Force**

### **Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 15, 2026

**Time:** 2:02–2:57 PM

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

**Attendees:** William Loyd Jr. (Chair), Andria Pooley (Staff Support), Laura Leise, HHS Aging & Disability, Megz Stroback

#### **Meeting Schedule**

The committee reviewed its meeting schedule during the legislative session.

- Meetings are confirmed for January and February.
- A tentative March date will remain on the calendar and may be canceled if not needed.
- The committee anticipates returning to its regular every-other-month meeting schedule following the legislative session.

#### **Iowa Disability Policy Alliance (IDPA) Membership**

William Loyd Jr. reported on his role as the Task Force representative to the Iowa Disability Policy Alliance (IDPA).

- IDPA membership is available to both individuals and organizations.
- IDPA legislative priorities have been adopted by the Task Force.
- Participation allows the Task Force to engage in coordinated advocacy, including sign-on letters and shared legislative messaging.
- The IDPA membership agreement had not yet been shared with this committee.
- [Iowa Disability Policy Alliance Membership Agreement](#)

#### **Legislative Priorities and Alignment**

The committee agreed to align advocacy and legislative actions with IDPA priorities unless specific concerns arise. No objections were raised to mirroring IDPA efforts.

## **Legislative Advocacy Opportunities (“Hill Days”)**

The committee reviewed a list of upcoming advocacy days at the Capitol compiled by IDPA. Members are encouraged to attend and represent the Task Force, their organizations, or themselves.

Key dates discussed included:

- **January 20:** Easterseals (2:00–4:00 PM)
- **January 26:** Area Education Agencies (10:00 AM–5:00 PM)
- **January 27:** Autism Society (8:00 AM–12:00 PM)
- **January 28:** Hill Day with Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa and other sponsors (2:00 PM-4:00PM)
- **February 3:** Decoding Dyslexia / UI REACH (Work Without Worry and scholarship legislation)

Members were asked to notify the committee if they attend any events so participation can be tracked.

## **Medicaid Waiver Redesign and Administrative Rule Changes**

Discussion focused on the HOME waiver redesign and administrative rule changes, including clarification of how the two processes differ and where they intersect.

Laura Leise confirmed that the materials under discussion were specific to the HOME waiver redesign. She emphasized that while waiver redesign and administrative rule changes are related, they are separate processes that often occur concurrently, which can contribute to confusion.

Committee members noted significant challenges navigating the HHS website and locating correct documents, even for experienced stakeholders. This reinforced the need for simplified, plain-language explanations.

Important Links:

[Waiver Redesign FAQ | Health & Human Services](#)

[Iowa Rulemaking Document: ARC 9865C](#)

[Iowa Legislature - Rules Tracker](#)

[HOME Projects System Improvements Graphic](#)

[HOME Project Summary](#)

[Waiver Redesign FAQ](#)

Bill proposed identifying comprehensive documents that describe both processes and using AI tools to summarize them into plain-language explanations. The goal is to help people understand:

- Which processes are parallel and which are separate
- What changes are proposed
- What the practical impacts of those changes may be

Committee should send source materials to William Loyd Jr., who could draft a message for review and potential distribution. William Loyd Jr. agreed and indicated he would be willing to run draft materials by the Executive Committee prior to broader distribution.

### **Next Steps and Action Items**

**Andria Pooley** will:

- Continue gathering official HHS documents related to the waiver redesign and administrative rule changes
- Verify details related to the February 9 public hearing
- Share source documents with Bill.

**Bill** will:

- Draft plain-language summaries of the waiver redesign and administrative rule changes using identified documents
- Consider sharing draft summaries with the Executive Committee for review
- Explore additional language or resources from ADRCs that may support clarification efforts

**Laura Leise** will:

- Share bookmarked administrative rule and waiver redesign resources with Andria Pooley
- Assist in confirming correct public comment opportunities and document references, as available