

Olmstead Plan Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15, 2026

Location: Virtual

Attendees: Mari Brown (Chair), Laura Leise, HHS Aging & Disability, Andria Pooley (Staff Support), June Klein-Bacon, Brooke Lovelace, Iowa DD Council, Megz Stroback, Kris Graves

Legislative and Medicaid Update

- Andria Pooley asked June Klein-Bacon about the status of an in-person public hearing related to Medicaid rule ARC 9865C.
- June Klein-Bacon shared that the February 9, 2026, in-person public hearing (10:00 AM) had not yet been publicly posted. The invitation she received came through a lobbyist.
- The rule change would place caps on hourly Supported Employment and Living (SEL) services for ID and BI waivers.
- June is working with her lobbyist to prepare individuals to share the potential impacts of the proposed rule, either through in-person testimony or written statements.

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](#)

Olmstead Plan Status Update

Laura Leise provided a detailed update on the Olmstead Plan:

- The plan is currently undergoing an accessibility review.
- The Word document phase is complete; the plan is now being converted into an accessible PDF, which requires additional review.
- Laura presented the plan to the HHS Aging & Disability Division Director, who is reviewing it.

- A meeting between the Division Director and the HHS Director is scheduled for January 23, 2026.
- The plan is on track for publication during the first week of February 2026.
- Laura offered to share the draft plan with committee members.

Review of Goals, Measures, and Data

- Laura walked the committee through the draft plan, focusing on the primary impact areas, goals, recommendations, and baseline data.
- Discussion included:
 - Access to Care: Review of goals and related data sources, including the State Health Assessment, which is conducted approximately every five years.
 - Members discussed the timing of measurable progress and acknowledged that meaningful statistical change may take one to two years.
 - Laura explained that progress monitoring will involve coordination with multiple partners, including Disability Access Points (DAPs), Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), ADRCs, and other HHS divisions.
- Laura stated that she plans to:
 - Provide regular updates to the committee during meetings.
 - Develop an annual progress report serving as both baseline and ongoing measurement.

Coordination with Other Initiatives

- Laura described alignment between the Olmstead Plan and other initiatives, including:
 - Maternal health efforts
 - The Rural Health Transformation Grant
- Committee members discussed how improvements in rural health, mental health, housing, and transportation—while not disability-specific—could positively impact people with disabilities.
- [Healthy Hometowns - Iowa's Rural Health Transformation Plan | Health & Human Services](#)

Use of the Olmstead Plan as a Roadmap

- Laura emphasized that the plan is designed as a “plug-and-play” resource.

- The plan can be used by state agencies, counties, providers, and community organizations to identify actionable strategies at the state, county, and organizational levels.
- Members discussed how subcommittees and individual members could use the plan to guide advocacy and conversations at local and regional levels.

Housing, Transportation, and Employment Goals

- Committee members reviewed housing, transportation, and employment goals, including:
 - Baseline data and target measures
 - Examples of how organizations and communities could implement strategies locally
- Discussion included potential partnerships (e.g., iABLE accounts, volunteer transportation programs, employment pilots).
- Members identified minor edits and formatting issues in the draft document, which Laura noted for correction.

Next Steps

- Laura will continue the internal approval and accessibility process for the Olmstead Plan.
- Anticipated public release of the plan is early February 2026.
- Additional information on ARC 9865C and the February 9 public hearing will be shared with the full Olmstead group once available.
- Committee members may request future presentations or updates from related HHS divisions.