

# Olmstead Consumer Taskforce

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 12, 2025

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 12:35 PM

**Location:** Virtual

### **Olmstead Consumer Task Force Members Present:**

Lisa Pakkebier (Chair)  
Mari Brown  
Edward Esbeck  
Harriet Gulbranson  
William Loyd  
Joel Vander Molen  
Kelly Stull

Amber Alaniz  
Michelle Allmandinger  
Ernie Geiger  
Marc Hines  
Brittney Montross  
Megz Stroback  
Jessica Williams

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Greg Fier  
Michael Martin (Excused)

Garret Frey (Excused)  
Joey Wesselink

### **Staff Support:**

Andria Pooley

### **Other Attendees:**

Falicia Beck  
Ann Brownsberger  
Jody Bridgewater  
Laura Leise  
Roxanne Cogil  
Anne Crotty  
Katie Damon  
Bailey Freese  
Kris Graves  
Skylar Hoffman  
Teya K  
Geoff Lauer  
Patti Manna  
Kellee McCrory  
Koki Nakagawa  
Natalia Portal Figueroa  
Jacklynn Sulentic  
Danielle Workman

Becky Brown  
Maghan Bowman  
Teresa Bomhoff  
Morgan Casey  
Paula Connolly  
Ryan Crane  
Lori Drummond  
Kelly Garcia  
Ben Grauer  
Heaven Johnson  
Todd Lange  
Brooke Lovelace  
Megan Marsh  
Angela McConville  
Todd Noack  
Krys Purscell  
Kelly Stull

## Materials Referenced

[Olmstead Consumer Taskforce July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes DRAFT](#)  
[Olmstead Consumer Taskforce September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Agenda DRAFT](#)  
[Olmstead Consumer Taskforce Plan, DRAFT](#)  
HHS Presentation by Kelly Garcia Slides (Slides Unavailable)  
[Olmstead Consumer Taskforce HHS ADS Update](#)  
[Healthy Iowans Disability Data Snapshot](#)  
[Olmstead Consumer Taskforce HHS Update](#)

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### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order, and the agenda was reviewed.

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### 2. Director Kelly Garcia's Presentation

Director Garcia provided an update on key Medicaid initiatives. Monthly town halls continue to support transparency, and work on the HOME project is ongoing. She introduced the REACH project, set to launch in 2027, which will expand behavioral health services for children and youth with serious emotional disturbance through crisis teams, therapeutic supports, and wraparound care in home and community settings.

Garcia also announced the appointment of new Medicaid Director Lee Grossman and highlighted efforts to expand leadership capacity in finance, project management, data, and clinical expertise. These changes are aimed at strengthening Iowa's historically small Medicaid team.

Looking forward, the agency's vision centers on aligning HOME and REACH, reducing reliance on institutional and emergency care, and improving coordination and assessment tools. The long-term goal is to create a more sustainable system that better meets the needs of Iowans.

### Questions & Responses (Highlights)

- **Eligibility/Data:** Iowa's income/asset limits (250% & \$10,020) are mid-range nationally; some states cited as more generous have not fully implemented changes. Further expansion would require legislative investment. Data access for advocates will continue via FOIA to ensure privacy, though Iowa's dashboards already provide extensive public data.
- **Behavioral Health:** Peer support billing under review; AB3 guidance pending.
- **Facility Safety:** New cameras, overnight monitoring, and expanded staff training following recent incidents. Collaborative Safety model being deployed statewide.

- **Tier 5 & 6 Services:** Concerns raised about potential cuts and impacts on high-need individuals. Director Garcia emphasized intent is to expand services, not restrict care, and noted proposals remain open to public comment and revision.
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### 3. Review and Approval of September Agenda

The September agenda was reviewed, and a correction was noted where “July” had been listed instead of “September.” A motion to approve the agenda with this correction was made by Joel Vander Molen and seconded by Harriet Gulbranson. The motion carried unanimously.

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### 4. Review and Approval of July Minutes

The July minutes were reviewed, and no revisions were noted. A motion to approve was made by Michelle Allmandinger and seconded by Jessica Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

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### 5. State Agency Reports

#### HHS Update – Laura Leise (HHS):

- Ongoing system alignment across behavioral health, disability services, and Medicaid.
  - **Behavioral Health:** Iowa PCA expanding service navigation supports.
  - **Disability & Aging:** Launch of Disability Access Points (July 1). Navigators connecting individuals to services. District advisory committees forming.
  - **Town Halls:** Links shared for disability and Medicaid updates. Recordings available for past sessions.
    - [Medicaid Town Halls](#)
    - [Disability Service Provider Town Halls](#)
  - **Other Initiatives:** Updates on REACH, HOPE, and HOME projects. Public participation encouraged.
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### 6. Olmstead Plan Update

**Presented by Laura Leise (HHS) with support from Katie Damon (HHS Performance Division):**

Laura provided an update on the Olmstead Plan development process. Data indicators were organized into three categories: access to care, health and social outcomes, and economic stability/community integration. From this analysis, four key goals were identified: increasing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, improving access to affordable housing and transportation, expanding developmental screenings and connections to services for children, and strengthening community connections for socially isolated individuals. These goals align closely with the State Multi-Sector Plan and the State Plan on Aging. While caregiver shortages were highlighted as a significant concern, statewide data to measure this issue remains limited. Members emphasized the importance of incorporating lived experience data alongside traditional indicators. The next

- Olmstead Plan Committee meeting is scheduled for October 2 from 3:00–4:00 p.m. via [Zoom](#).
  - Email [laura.leise@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:laura.leise@hhs.iowa.gov) with questions and input
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**7. Transportation Discussion – Angela McConville – SEATS Bus Service to North Liberty**

**Presenter:** Angela McConville (City of North Liberty), introduced by Ernie.

- **Problem:** Limited SEATS service to University of Iowa’s North Liberty campus (three trips daily).
- **Funding Challenges:** Johnson County SEATS requested additional bus purchase and staffing, which North Liberty cannot fund.

Angela McConville from the City of North Liberty, introduced by Ernie Geiger, provided an overview of transportation challenges to the University of Iowa’s North Liberty campus. Currently, SEATS service is limited to three trips per day, which does not align with typical appointment times. Johnson County SEATS has indicated that additional routes would require the purchase of another bus and more staffing, which North Liberty cannot fund.

Local alternatives include the North Liberty Transportation Assistance Program (NLTAP), which provides non-emergency medical transport for residents from 7 a.m.–5 p.m., and Trip Connect, an on-demand service operating from 5 p.m.–midnight at a cost of \$2 per ride. However, neither option fully addresses daytime medical appointment needs. As a result, many residents face barriers to accessing care, with some relying on costly alternatives such as Uber, which can total \$40–\$50 per round trip.

- **Next Steps:** The **Community Access Committee** will continue the discussion and invite Angela to a future meeting.
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## 8. New Voting Members

### Report – Joel Vander Molen & Mari Brown:

- Executive Committee reviewed applicants and recommended four new members:
  - **Mary Roberts** – Parent of two children with severe disabilities; prior Taskforce member; extensive HCBS knowledge.
  - **Krystal Fitzpatrick** – Individual with disabilities and caregiver; background in teaching and advocacy.
  - **Katie Peck** – Case manager for 18 years; adoptive parent; extensive advocacy for families.
  - **Kristine Graves** – Peer support specialist with lived experience in recovery; prior Taskforce member.

Members reviewed the applications and agreed that all four candidates would be a strong fit for the Taskforce. A motion to approve the slate of nominees was made by Kelly and seconded by Bill. The motion carried, and all four members were elected.

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## 9. Committee Reports

Reports are available for each of the four standing committees: the Executive Committee, the Community Access Committee, the Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee, and the Olmstead Plan Committee. Full minutes and reports for these committees are available on the [Olmstead Taskforce website](#).

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## 10. Meeting Schedule Change Proposal

### Executive Committee Recommendation:

The Taskforce discussed proposed changes to the meeting schedule. Due to historically low attendance in July, members agreed to cancel the July meeting and add a February meeting to better align with the legislative session. This adjustment maintains six meetings annually in January, February, March, May, September, and November. The proposal also included holding one hybrid in-person meeting, either in May or September, with transportation supports available. Members expressed support for the changes,

emphasizing the importance of hybrid participation and advance planning for accessibility. A motion to approve the revised schedule passed.

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### **11. Public Comment**

- Advocacy reminder: **Older Iowans Legislature** meeting at end of month. Opportunity to address reimbursement rates for home health services.
  - Angela McConville encouraged continued advocacy for regional transit solutions.
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### **12. Call to Action / Follow-Up Items**

- No additional items raised.
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### **13. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm. Next meeting scheduled for **November 14, 2025**.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Andria Pooley