



**THE MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

9:30 am –2:30 pm

The Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain  
2025 East Riverway Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55414

**Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair  
Jenny Arndt  
Jason Blomquist  
Dupree Edwards  
Lisa Gemlo  
Amy Hewitt  
Lisa Jemtrud  
Heather Kainz  
Joel Liestman  
Elizabeth Marsh  
Katie McDermott  
Chris McVey  
Alan Morrison  
Christine Mueller  
Michael Nichols  
Garrett Petrie  
Jennifer Purrington  
Mary Raasch  
Jennifer Santema  
Erin Schwab  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Sumukha Terakanambi

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Lesli Kerkhoff  
Abdi Matan  
Connie Rabideaux

## **GUESTS**

Aisha Elmquist  
Senator John Hoffman  
Sanjay Terakanambi

## **STAFF PRESENT**

Stephanie Nelson  
Paul Nevin  
Colleen Wieck

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lee Shervheim at 12:17 pm.

### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone present introduced themselves.

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Shervheim asked for approval of agenda. **Motion** by Edwards seconded by Terakanambi to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 4, 2023)**

Shervheim requested the Minutes' approval from the October 4, 2023 meeting. **Motion** by Edwards seconded by McDermott to approve the Minutes. Motion carried.

### **V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Honorable John Hoffman discussed a very successful legislative session. Senator Hoffman introduced 352 bills and 60% passed. He worked hard to be bipartisan by leaving egos in the hallway, advice he received from the late Congressman Jim Ramstad. Senator Hoffman was successful in getting \$3.2 billion from the record setting \$18 billion surplus. He consolidated his agenda around one topic-caregivers. He reminded other legislators that when DHS underspends their budget the money is returned to the general fund. He mentioned that he and House Chair Noor used small working groups to negotiate final numbers rather than passing paper offers back and forth.

Senator Hoffman mentioned several specific victories including:

- Elimination of TEFRA fees
- Provider incentives to increase competitive integrated employment
- More emphasis on informed choice
- Strengthening supported decision-making
- Rate increases for the workforce
- Increasing community capacity to move 2000 people currently boarding in hospitals
- More attention given to equity issues
- Better services for child protection

It is important for every Council member to become the “go-to experts on disability issues” for their Minnesota Senator and Minnesota House of Representatives members. Hoffman recounted a story about a bill and the need for a legislative leader to sign off; he asked if his constituent agreed with the bill, and they said yes, and he immediately signed it.

In 2024 some possible topics will be housing issues, customized living, competitive workforce factors, and technology.

The Council members thanked Senator Hoffman for his presentation.

VI. **OLMSTEAD PLAN UPDATE**

Aisha Elmquist was selected as the new director of the Olmstead Implementation Office three months ago. She previously worked at the Office of the Ombudsman for Long Term Care and at Legal Aid. Aisha presented a PowerPoint presentation which has been summarized below:

What is the Olmstead Plan?

The Olmstead Plan is a set of goals for Minnesota state agencies. Together, these goals will help Minnesotans with disabilities live, learn, work, and enjoy life in the most integrated setting possible.

The Plan is named after the 1999 Supreme Court case *Olmstead v. LC*. This case decided that states must enable people with disabilities to live in the most integrated settings possible. The case was brought forward by two women, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson, who were living in an institution in Georgia and wanted to live in the community.

The Olmstead Subcabinet is made up of 13 state agencies that play an important role in the lives of people with disabilities. The agencies include Minnesota Housing, Human Services, Employment and Economic Development, Transportation, Corrections, Health, Human Rights, Education, Veterans Affairs, Public Safety, Metropolitan Council, Ombudsman for MH-DD, and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Olmstead Plan includes more than 30 goals. The goals are grouped into 12 categories including: Crisis Services, Education, Employment, Healthcare, Housing, Person-centered Planning, Positive Supports, Preventing Abuse, Transition, Transportation, Waiver Funding, and Community Engagement.

The roles of the Olmstead Implementation Office include:

- Working to ensure the Plan is co-created by people with disabilities and state agency leaders, and that the Plan includes expressed needs and desires of Minnesotans with disabilities;
- Providing education about the Olmstead Plan and collecting and sharing data related to the integration of people with disabilities in Minnesota;
- Working to ensure that people with disabilities understand the Plan and whether the Olmstead goals are being met; and
- Working closely with the Olmstead Subcabinet and Leadership Forum.

The Olmstead Plan can be viewed online. The Olmstead Subcabinet meets quarterly to discuss the Plan and the meetings are held virtually and are open to the public. The Plan is available in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali. A plain language version is also available.

The Olmstead Implementation Office staff members reviewed other Olmstead Plans in 23 states. Only Minnesota updates its plan annually; makes annual progress reports easily available online; and covers a wide range of topics.

There has been progress. Between 2014 and 2022 reports of mechanical restraint use declined by 87%; reports of restrictive practices declined by nearly 80%; and the number of people living in integrated rental housing of their choice with financial support more than doubled from 5,995 people to 12,897 people.

The Olmstead Implementation Office is now busy with community engagement, communications, quality of life survey, and revision of the plan. Fifteen hired consultants with lived experience will co-create the next iteration of the Olmstead Plan; the Olmstead Office will hold community events and receive public comments; and policy consultants will also be retained.

There are several ways to follow the OIO on social media including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn. All Council members were encouraged to sign up for the newsletter.

The Council members then discussed past problems with the dispute referral form and the lack of followup and resolution of the issues. Does the OIO take a stand on Waiver Reimagine? No. Whatever happened to the input that the self-advocacy committee provided a few years ago? How is the Plan enforced if there is no court jurisdiction? Is there accountability if state agencies don't meet their goals? What do people do and where do you go when the Plan isn't implemented? How are complaints and grievances directed to the correct place? There is a big gap between Commissioners having big ideas and local implementation. The system has gone backwards and so there is a disconnect with the Olmstead goals.

The Council members thanked Aisha Elmquist for her presentation.

VII.

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Garrett Petrie and Sumukha Terakanambi described the presentation by Trevor Turner (Minnesota Council on Disability) and some of the highlights from the 2023 Legislative Session. The Committee also heard an update from Chris McVey about E1MN.

VIII.

**GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Lee Shervheim and Katie McDermott described the Orientation Session held during their meeting and the review process they followed in updating the Training Conference application.

IX.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Wieck asked members to review the supplementary materials packet. The Council staff have completed the annual Program Performance Report; the Annual Report; and the Business Results. The Annual Report and the Business Results will be posted on the Council's website.

X.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Shervheim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion** by Smith, seconded by Morrison that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director