

Public input themes and agency response

Background

The Olmstead Implementation Office organized various opportunities for the second round of public comment on the annual update and modification of the Olmstead Plan. This included eight regionally based video listening sessions and written input by email and through an online form. These yielded over 71 comments from people with disabilities, families, supporters, lead agencies, and providers. Over 68 people participated in video conferences or provided written comments.

How to read this chart

The public comments have been grouped in themes and organized by the Olmstead Plan topic areas. Not all of the modifications to the Plan proposed by the agencies received public comments. Some of the comments relate to Plan strategies. Many of the comments relate to existing workplans or could be considered as a modification to a workplan.

PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
It would be helpful if data could be collected to verify county performance on implementation of person-centered practices.	DHS is currently implementing an audit of county practices related to person-centered practices. Results are reported in the Olmstead Quarterly Reports.
Direct care workforce needs long term solutions	Recommendations on direct care workforce are to be reviewed by the Subcabinet at the March meeting.
Direct care workforce shortages limit people's choice of living arrangements and how supports are delivered.	Recommendations on direct care workforce are to be reviewed by the Subcabinet at the March meeting.

TRANSITION SERVICES

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
The system (nursing homes, hospitals, clinics, health professionals, social workers) need better understanding on Olmstead transition process.	The Subcabinet has adopted standards for utilizing person-centered practices in transitions for people with disabilities. Broad training across counties, providers, and people with disabilities is ongoing. An audit process is reported on quarterly to the Subcabinet to monitor progress.

HOUSING AND SERVICES

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
There is limited affordable housing which interferes with employment options and is additionally compounded by limited transportation.	The Olmstead Plan calls for improvement to affordable housing, expanded competitive integrated employment opportunities, and expanded hours and more efficient transportation.

[AGENDA ITEM 6a1]

EMPLOYMENT

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
What data exists that shows priority of offering competitive integrated employment benefits the people who become employed and the people who stay in segregated settings?	The Employment First Policy found in a link on page 55 of the February 2017 Olmstead Plan provides information on the benefits of providing people with disabilities the option of competitive integrated employment.
Request that the number of peer support specialists should be increased to 50/year	The current goal is to increase the number of peer support specialists to 68 during the 2018/2019 time period. Expanding to 100 over this time period would require additional resources that are not available.
More education for people with disabilities and employers about how to integrate people into competitive integrated employment.	MDE, DEED, and DHS are providing training for people with disabilities, educators, vocational services staff, and employers on how to achieve competitive integrated employment. Progress is reported annually beginning in May 2018 to the Subcabinet.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
Consider using fall and spring data to measure students accessing post-secondary education.	The agency at this time is only reporting on fall enrollment. Adding in spring data may be considered later.

WAITING LIST

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
The current waiver allocation system relies on the county rather than a statewide basis.	The legislature modified the waiver allocation process to allow waiver allocations to occur at the state under certain circumstances.

TRANSPORTATION

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
The issue of how state and federal funds can be efficiently utilized should be examined.	DOT is sponsoring regional meetings to explore how to efficiently utilize all transportation services (funded by state, federal and local resources).

[AGENDA ITEM 6a1]

HEALTH CARE AND HEALTHY LIVING

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
People need to travel great distances to reach dental services.	The MN Oral Health Program calls for improvement across key elements of the MN oral health services. Expanding access, numbers of practitioners, integrated primary care and oral services should result in services in closer proximity to patients.
There is a healthcare crisis in rural MN	MN is expanding health care homes (integrated primary care with mental health care) across MN. Projections anticipate that 80% of health clinics will be certified by 2020.
Trauma informed care is a best practice and should be adopted widely across the service system.	Trauma informed care is a tool utilized by the service system. It has not been specifically included in the Olmstead Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
Consider using video conferencing.	OIO is utilizing video conferences.
Consider how to engage people who are experiencing homelessness.	OIO will consider this issue in the next year.
There is a need for more public education on the Olmstead Plan, participation, and input process.	OIO has defined workplan activities to improve public awareness and public input processes.
Increase work with youth and school districts, people with disabilities, counties, and rural communities.	OIO has defined workplan activities to improve public awareness and public input processes.

PREVENTING ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
Improve efforts to prevent abuse and neglect.	The Comprehensive Plan for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect of People with Disabilities was completed and accepted by the Subcabinet. Key agencies are assigned to identify priority recommendations and present associated workplans to the Subcabinet at the June meeting.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
There is resistance to use of assistive technology. Too many students are not able to access and schools are just checking off boxes. Who decides use of Assistive Technology?	Current process requires all IEPs actively consider the need for and use of assistive technology. MDE is providing technical assistance and training on how to implement this practice.

[AGENDA ITEM 6a1]

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
There is a funding gap for assistive technology.	Processes exist in MDE and DHS for the consideration of the use of assistive technology. When a need is identified resources are identified. People not engaged in these processes can seek assistance from the STAR program.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Theme of Comments	Agency Response
Agencies should provide support and training, possibly a mentoring program.	Agencies do provide many training opportunities for existing and new providers on relevant topic areas. There are no current plans for establishing a mentoring system.
DHS should provide an advocate to guide people through services.	This service is available through the lead agencies (counties, tribes). DHS provides consultation and technical to the lead agencies upon request.
Concerns were raised about potential cuts to Medicaid and Medicare.	Agencies monitor for any changes made at the federal level regarding these programs.