

Quality of Life Assessment 2/22/14 Subcabinet Report

The Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO) has been in consultation with Jim Conroy from the Center for Outcome Analysis concerning the development of a Quality Of Life (QOL) assessment tool. Jim Conroy was the measurement content expert in the development of the Olmstead Plan. The OIO has also reviewed a number of existing QOL assessment tools used in Minnesota and nationally. While many of the existing QOL assessment tools advance knowledge about the quality of life of individuals with disabilities, few were applied across multiple disability groups or ages, or validated and found reliable or included all the domains and demographic data identified in the Olmstead Plan.

The OIO is recommending that an Annual Plan for \$5,000 be developed with the Center for Outcome Analysis to create a QOL assessment tool specific to the Minnesota Olmstead Plan recommendations. The Center for Outcome Analysis has already developed QOL scales that address most of the Olmstead Plan QOL required elements and that can be applied across multiple disabilities and ages. The contract would include survey development, instructions for administering the survey, documentation of validity and reliability studies, and authorization to apply the tool in Minnesota's Olmstead Plan QOL surveys through the end of calendar year 2018.

One of the cornerstones of the Olmstead Plan is the implementation of a Quality of Life survey that would serve as a baseline to measure changes in the lives of disabled people over time. While the Olmstead Plan is intended to address all life domains for people with disabilities, comments from community listening sessions largely focused on housing and employment. It is not possible or necessary to survey the over 500,000 individuals in Minnesota with disabilities to create a functional baseline. By surveying a significant sample of individuals with disabilities living in segregated housing and spending their days in segregated day programs and segregated employment settings, the subsequent baseline would attend to those at greatest risk and to the life domains identified by the community as of greatest concern. To quantify this universe and determine the subsequent sample, individuals with disabilities living in segregated residential settings and attending Day Treatment and Habilitation Centers will be identified. In addition, individuals receiving Extended Employment services in center based employment settings will also be identified. Large samples will be taken from each of these segregated settings and QOL assessments conducted for these populations to create a starting baseline. In years 2016-2018 a subset of the 2015 baseline will be sampled to identify changes in QOL.

A placeholder budget of \$500,000 is included in the OIO budget. Actual costs will depend upon the baseline size and subsequent administration and analysis costs