



Workgroup Recommendations to the Leadership Forum

May 23, 2022

Background

In 2019, Governor Tim Walz signed [Minnesota Executive Order 19-13](#) asking the [Minnesota Olmstead Subcabinet](#) members to look at new opportunities to address the needs of individuals with disabilities. These included:

- Remove barriers to providing services to people in the most integrated setting
- Address inequalities that don't allow people to live, learn, work, and enjoy life in the community
- Find ways to improve the health and welfare of people with disabilities.

In response to the Governor's Executive Order, the Minnesota Olmstead Subcabinet authorized Workgroups to explore five topics. The Workgroups began meeting in June 2021.

Each group includes State Agency staff, service providers and people with disabilities who can share life experiences on the topic. The groups will explore ideas for about nine months and then make recommendations to the Subcabinet.

Background (cont.)

- Five Workgroups were formed in June 2021
- Workgroups met for 10 months
- All meetings were held on Zoom platform
- Six Community Input Events were held
- Small groups met as needed

Out of this work, recommendations have been determined for the 2nd cohort of Workgroup members to focus on.

Data Collection Practices Recommendation

Our recommendation is to continue to gather data from the Data Collection Practices survey, analyze results, and determine next steps.

- The purpose of the survey is to develop an inventory of datasets from all state agencies in Minnesota to highlight the presence or absence of disability related data (including data regarding persons with disabilities from diverse racial, ethnic and linguistic backgrounds and data related to broad categorical disability groups as well as specific groups) and to determine the ways the data may align with the Minnesota Olmstead Implementation Plan.

Workgroup Leads: J.P. Mahoehney and Amy Hewitt

Prevention of Abuse and Neglect Recommendations

Our recommendation is to make sure people with disabilities are included as valued leaders and experts. Their knowledge and lived experiences will advise how to implement and evaluate the comprehensive abuse and neglect prevention plan. To achieve this the Abuse and Neglect Workgroup's (or any subgroups) will strive to have at least 50% of their membership be people with disabilities. All meetings and materials will be designed for greatest accessibility. We will focus on primary prevention areas from the comprehensive plan that include the following:

- Educate families, community members, and people who work with people with disabilities about the problem of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities. Give them information on options to report, where to access services, and ways to support the needs and wishes of people with disabilities who have experienced abuse or neglect.
- Prevent abuse and neglect from happening in the first place, by focusing on examining and eliminating the reasons why people are abused or neglected.

Workgroup Leads: Neerja Singh and Chris Bray

Workforce Shortage and People with Disabilities Recommendation

A survey was distributed to Workforce Shortage and People with Disabilities Workgroup Members, Community Input Event attendees, OIO social media and website.

Survey question:

What are the top five biggest barriers to you having a competitive integrated job? That means a job where you work with non-disabled people, and you get paid the same amount of money as everyone else.

Our recommendation is to distribute the survey to Greater Minnesota residents that are not currently receiving DEED. Our goal is to distribute the survey in June 2022. A comparison will be done to determine similarities, gaps, etc. against the findings of a DEED survey distributed in March 2022.

Workgroup Leads: Dacia VanAlstine, Ron Adams, and Nicole Edwards

Workforce Shortage and People with Disabilities Recommendations (cont.)

Top five barriers:

1. Unreliable or inaccessible transportation
2. Not enough job supports
3. Worry about losing benefits
4. Do not have necessary work skills
5. Disability or health related concerns

The recommendation is to continue with data collection across a larger sample (Greater Minnesota) and conduct analysis that will be shared with the next cohort.

Affordable, Safe, and Accessible Housing Recommendations

After conducting Community Input Events, surveys, and Workgroup discussions, our recommendations are to:

- Request data and information on the types of housing people with disabilities in Minnesota want, how much of that housing is currently available, how many people get the type of housing they want, and how those terms are defined.
- Gather data and information on rental housing access for people with disabilities who are black, indigenous, and people of color.

Workgroup Leads: Heidi Hamilton, Joel Salzer, and Sara Huffman

Affordable, Safe, and Accessible Housing Recommendations (cont.)

- Create a standard definition of accessible housing beyond ADA requirements that includes being near public transportation with sub-definitions based on type of need.
- Require state agencies to eliminate jargon and acronyms and provide plain language instruction guides on websites and materials. I.e., Decision Tree to be used by parents, advocates, and other community members.

Juvenile Justice & Special Education Workgroup: Journey to the Recommendation

Passionate and knowledgeable workgroup!

Our Charge: Exploring the Problem Space

- Research why more students with disabilities are arrested and jailed than non-disabled students
- Find out why more students of color are arrested and jailed than their white peers
- Find ways to reduce the number of students with disabilities who are arrested and jailed

Challenge: engagement is key to this exploration – how is this done without further traumatizing and labeling people and families at the center of this issue?

Workgroup Leads: Kate Erickson and Beau RaRa

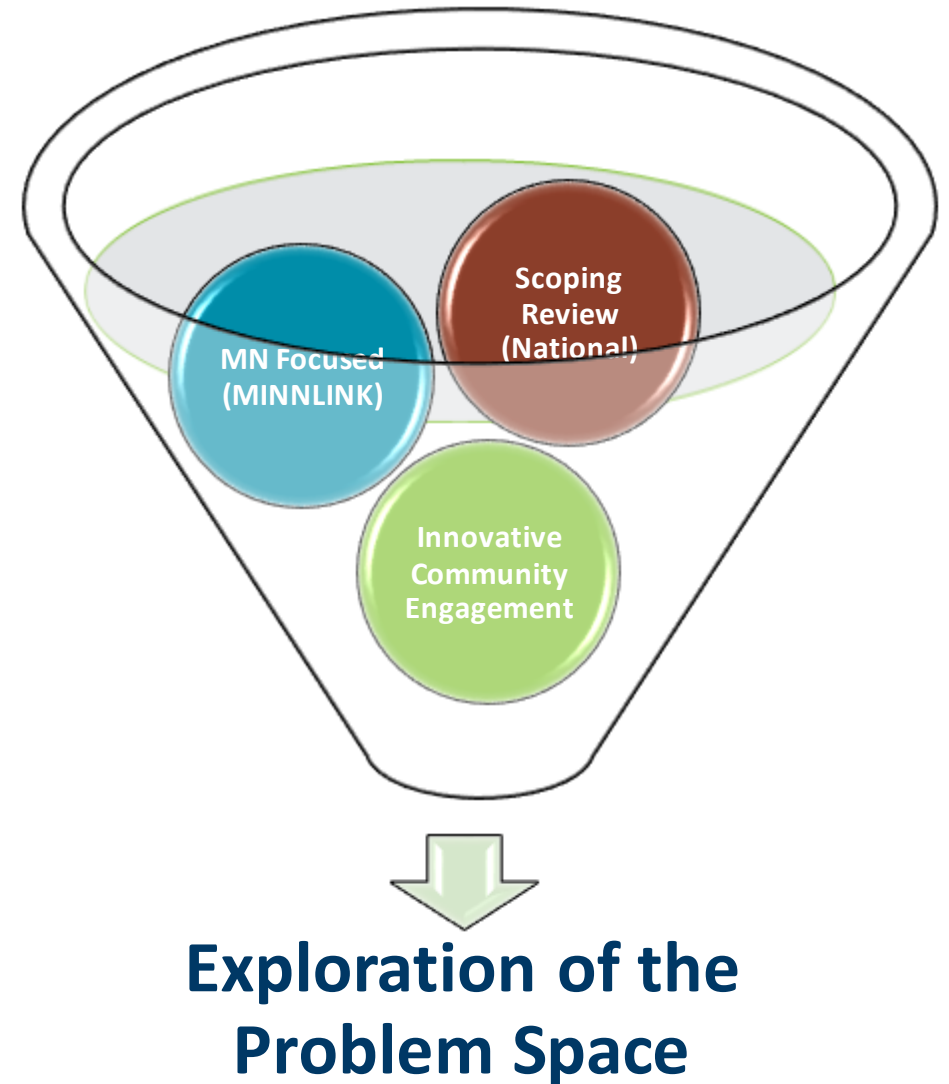
Recommendation

Engage what is known!

Scoping review

“...catalyzing what is known in order to activate people...”

– Beau RaRa, Youth Restorative Justice Initiative Lead, Legal Rights Center; co-lead to the workgroup



Framing of the Scoping Review

University of Minnesota, Institute for Community Integration

Individual Focus

- Needs of BIPOC kids with disabilities
- Resilience & protective Factors

Systems Focus: Education, Criminal Justice & Corrections

- Needs of systems
- Interventions

Lessons Learned

Identified Challenges	Actions Taken
Membership	Recommendation to include at least 50% participation of members with disabilities. Will do so by intentionally adding resources and requesting members to reach out to networks.
Meeting Notifications	Set meeting schedule upfront for the Workgroup year.
Reminders	Include in meeting invite.
Agenda Topics	Set tentative topics for the Workgroup year.
Engagement	Speakers, Enhanced Surveys; digital and web promotions (Disability Hub, Access Press, etc.)
Communications	Now including formstacks to allow audio and video responses
Community Input Events	Include during Workgroup Meetings: social media kits and other pertinent information.

Next Steps

Workgroups Application Process	May 16 – June 5
Workgroups Open House - Lunch & Learn	May 25
Workgroups Leads Meeting	June 12
New Workgroup member training	July 20

Workgroups Meeting Schedule

Workgroup Topic*	2 nd Week of the Month	Time
Prevention of Abuse and Neglect	Tuesday	10:00 – 11:30
Workforce Shortage and People with Disabilities	Tuesday	1:30 – 3:00
Affordable, Safe, and Accessible Housing	Wednesday	10:30 – 12:00
Juvenile Justice and Special Education	Thursday	9:00 – 10:30
Data Collection Practices	Thursday	1:30 – 3:00

*Anticipate the addition of two new Workgroups to start January 2023.

Workgroup Member's Quotes

"I love that the question defines what a competitive integrated job is."

"Ensuring engagement of people with disabilities will be a process for all state agencies, and so glad we are talking about this."

"This has been a terrific opportunity to be a part of this group."

Thank You!