



Bulletin

NUMBER

#16-48-01

DATE

February 29, 2016

OF INTEREST TO

County Directors

Social Services Supervisors
and Staff

Tribes

Lead Agencies

Other interested parties

ACTION/DUE DATE

Please read information
and prepare for
implementation

EXPIRATION DATE

February 29, 2018

Minnesota's Olmstead Plan:

A Summary

TOPIC

A summary of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan. This is the first in a series of bulletins about the Olmstead Plan.

PURPOSE

To provide county and tribal staff as well as service providers with a summary of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan. This bulletin is only a summary of the complete Olmstead Plan. Additional information will be sent in future bulletins.

CONTACT

Send questions to

SIGNED

CHARLES E. JOHNSON

Deputy Commissioner

Minnesota Department of Human Services

TERMINOLOGY NOTICE

The terminology used to describe people we serve has changed over time. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the use of "People First" language.

I. Minnesota's Vision for People with Disabilities

Minnesota is moving towards its vision of people with disabilities living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated of settings. This means people with disabilities can build or maintain relationships with their family and friends, live more independently, work in our communities, and participate in community life. In other words, people with disabilities lead lives that are meaningful to them.

Minnesota's Olmstead Plan is how we will achieve this vision. It is about creating more opportunities and choice for people with disabilities, not about limiting options and choices. This bulletin summarizes the vision and details of the main Olmstead Plan. Additional bulletins on Person-Centered Planning and Waiting Lists will follow.

II. Developing Minnesota's Olmstead Plan

Minnesota began working on its Olmstead Plan in 2012. That year, the state formed the Olmstead Planning Committee, which included people with disabilities, family members, providers, advocates, and decision-makers from the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

In January 2013, Governor Mark Dayton issued an executive order establishing a subcabinet to develop and implement a broad plan supporting freedom of choice and opportunity for people with disabilities. The Olmstead Subcabinet includes the commissioner or commissioner's designee from the following state agencies:

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Department of Health
- Department of Human Rights
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

Representatives from the Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities are *ex officio* members of the subcabinet.

In August of 2015, a third draft of the plan was submitted to the court.

On September 29, 2015 the court approved the plan.

III. The Plan

Minnesota's Olmstead Plan focuses on setting measurable goals in 13 topic areas in order to:

- 1) Increase opportunities for people with disabilities to receive services that best meet their individual needs in the most integrated setting.
- 2) Improve service delivery to promote a better quality of life.

The 13 topic areas are:

Person-Centered Planning

People with disabilities decide for themselves where they will live, learn, work, and live their lives. They choose the services that support their decisions, through a planning process that guides them to determine what is important to them and will improve their quality of life. People with disabilities receive information about the benefits of integrated settings, which are settings where people with disabilities live and work with those who do not have disabilities. They will receive this information by visiting the locations and meeting others who are living, working, learning and receiving services.

Employment

People with disabilities have choices for competitive, meaningful, and continuous employment in the most integrated settings.

Transition Services

People with disabilities receive services that help them achieve their life's goals. Services match an individual's needs, reflect their life choices, and allow them to work with nondisabled persons as much as possible.

Housing and Services

People with disabilities have choices about where they live, with whom, and in what type of housing. They can choose to have a lease or own their own home and live in integrated settings appropriate for their needs. Supports and services will allow flexibility to support individuals' choices on where they live and how they live in their communities.

Lifelong Learning and Education

People with disabilities will access a comprehensive educational system at all levels, and have lifelong learning opportunities that support all development of an individual's talents, interests, creativity, and mental and physical abilities.

Waiting Lists

People with disabilities, who qualify for home and community based waiver services, are approved for services at a reasonable pace as determined by the individual's need.

Transportation

People with disabilities have access to reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation choices that support their work, housing, education, and social connections.

Healthcare and Healthy Living

People with disabilities, regardless of their age, type of disability, or place of residence, can access coordinated health services. These health services meet individual needs, support good health, prevent secondary conditions, and provide the opportunity for a satisfying and meaningful life.

Positive Supports

People with disabilities are treated with respect and dignity. They receive services that provide:

- Positive therapeutic supports and practices
- Trauma-Informed care
- Person-Centered thinking and planning.

Physical intervention only occurs when an individual's conduct creates imminent risk of physical harm to themselves or another, and less restrictive strategies will not work.

Crisis Services

People with disabilities live, work, attend school, and conduct their daily lives in community settings even when experiencing a life crisis. If this is not possible, disruption to daily life will be brief, minimal, and targeted to meet the individual's choices and needs.

Community Engagement

People with disabilities have the opportunity to fully engage in their community and connect with others in ways that are meaningful and aligned with their personal choices and desires.

IV. What's Next

The Department of Human Services is currently working to reach the goals put forth in the Olmstead Plan. These goals and the timeline for reaching them are available online in the [Olmstead Work Plan](#). The Department will also be putting out more bulletins on specific

topics including Person-Centered Planning, Wait Lists and Crisis Services to help educate our partners on the upcoming changes at The Department.

V. Additional Resources and Information

For more information, see the following resources:

- The [Minnesota Olmstead Plan](#)
- Minnesota's Olmstead Plan [website](#)
- [United States Department of Justice Olmstead Site](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Advisory

This information is available in accessible formats for people with disabilities by calling (651) 431-4670 (voice) ([division's general information phone number](#)) or toll free at (800) 627-3529 ([include if available within the division](#)) or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.