

Highlights of the 2016 Annual Report on Minnesota Olmstead Plan Implementation

The Olmstead Plan works to move Minnesota forward, so that people with disabilities have more choices about where they live, learn, work, and enjoy life and are more integrated into their communities.

It's the Law...

In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that segregation of people with disabilities is illegal. This decision required that people with disabilities must be integrated into their communities as much as possible, in the setting of their choice, with the supports they need to be successful. All people should have the chance to live, work, learn, and enjoy life where they choose and with the people of their choice. ***Everyone should have the chance to have the supports they need to establish a meaningful connection with their community.***

Minnesota has created our own [Olmstead Plan](#)- a road map to increase integration and choice for Minnesotans with disabilities. In this report, we show how far the Olmstead Plan has come since it was first approved by the Minnesota Federal District Court in 2015, as a result of the Jensen Settlement. We also discuss the next steps to move the plan forward.

The Olmstead Subcabinet oversees the progress of the Olmstead Plan. The Subcabinet consists of commissioners or their representatives from eight state agencies and the offices of Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. Mary Tingerthal, the Commissioner of Minnesota Housing, serves as Subcabinet Chair. The members are:

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Education (MDE)
- Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- Department of Health (MDH)
- Department of Human Rights (MDHR)
- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)
- Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)
- Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)

The Minnesota Olmstead Plan helps people with disabilities move. . .

From segregation. . .	To integration in the community and choosing where to live, learn, work, and enjoy life. . .
"I do not get to choose where I live, my roommates, or my staff."	"I am able to choose where I live, my roommates, and my staff."
"I don't have a job, I don't have enough hours of work, or I am not working in a job that I chose."	"I have a job in my community that pays me a competitive wage."
"I am in a separate class, separate wing or separate building to receive special education services."	"I have the opportunity to be included with all students."
"I can't get somewhere because I can't get a ride."	"I get a ride when I need it and it takes me where I need to go."
"Professionals control my services and funding."	"I control my services and funding."
"I have to go where the supports and services are."	"The supports and services that I need come to me."

How far have we come and where do we still need to go?

The state of Minnesota is currently working on 39 measurable goals that cover different aspects of improving the quality of life for people with disabilities in areas such as housing, jobs, education, transportation, healthy living, waiting lists, crisis services, positive supports, and prevention of abuse and neglect.

In each of the areas below, there have been several successes reported in 2016. There are also many areas for improvement as we move forward.

Housing

- People with disabilities will be able to choose where they live, their staff and their roommates, and which kind of home best fits their needs.
 - **Success reported in 2016:** The number of people living in integrated housing of their choice with a signed lease increased by 1,591.
 - **Moving forward:** In order for more people to move into integrated homes, they need to make informed choices, supported by person-centered planning, to find affordable housing options and the supports they need to be successful.

Jobs

- People with disabilities are able to choose jobs with competitive wages and benefits alongside people without disabilities, with the supports they need to be successful while working in the community.
 - **Success reported in 2016:** Nearly 3,500 adults with disabilities obtained competitive, integrated jobs in the community.
 - **Moving forward:** New federal requirements will provide more opportunities for people with disabilities to choose competitive jobs in the community and receive the supports they need to be successful.

Transportation

- People with disabilities will have greater access to their communities through reliable, accessible transportation and improved public infrastructure.
 - **Success reported in 2016:** DOT made 24.5% of curb ramps and 44% of pedestrian signals accessible to people with disabilities.

- **Moving forward:** DOT has set goals to improve sidewalks throughout the state to make them more accessible for people with disabilities. DOT will still work to increase hours and availability of public transportation in greater Minnesota to expand access for people with disabilities.

Waiting Lists

- People with disabilities will receive the funding and services they need to live productive, meaningful lives in the community.
 - **Success reported in 2016:** The Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) waiver supports people with disabilities to live in their communities. The CADI waiver waiting list previously contained 1420 people. That list was eliminated, which represents a significant number of people who now receive funding and services.
 - **Moving forward:** During this reporting period, DHS adopted new processes to ensure that people with disabilities move off the Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver waiting list in a reasonable amount of time.

Crisis Services

- When people experience a mental health crisis, they receive the supports that they need to remain in their communities.
 - **Success reported in 2016:** For children and adults with disabilities who experienced a crisis, more people had the necessary supports to remain in their community during the crisis.
 - **Moving forward:** The expansion of mobile crisis teams through the state has helped more people plan what to do in a crisis to be able to safely remain in their communities.

Positive Supports

- Minnesota is committed to ensuring that all people are treated with dignity and respect, and that they receive the support they need through the use of positive practices.
 - **Success reported in 2016:** Sometimes when people with disabilities are in crisis and present a risk to themselves or others, staff may use manual

restraint to prevent the individual from harming themselves or others. In 2016, 106 fewer people experienced manual restraints and there were 1,116 fewer reports of restraints in the same time period.

- At times, people with disabilities may display behavior that causes them serious injury. Although mechanical restraints are generally not allowed, with appropriate review and approval, mechanical restraints may be used as an intervention (under limited circumstances). This year, the number of people approved for use of mechanical restraint went down from 21 to 13, and the number of reports of mechanical restraints decreased from 912 to 691.
- **Moving forward:** The number of incidents of manual restraints for students with disabilities in schools went up over the past year, due to more accurate reporting systems. Schools districts are working to implement positive support practices to reduce the number of manual restraints of students with disabilities.

Abuse Prevention

- People with disabilities, family members, service providers, and advocates will be informed about how to recognize abuse and neglect and be empowered to report and prevent abuse and neglect of adults and children with disabilities.
 - **Success this year:** The Olmstead Subcabinet approved an outline of a statewide Abuse Prevention Plan in 2016, to be carried out starting in 2017.
 - **Moving forward:** State agencies will work to build public awareness campaigns and prevention strategies to reduce the amount of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

In conclusion, this report provides a summary of the highlights of the 2016 Annual Report on Olmstead Plan Implementation in Minnesota. For additional information about the Annual Report, please refer to the [full report](#) on the Olmstead Plan website.

What can I do to support the vision of the Minnesota Olmstead Plan?

- **Get connected**

- Sign up on our [website](#) for our email updates about the Olmstead Plan.
- Follow the Minnesota Olmstead Plan on [Facebook](#).

- **Learn more**

- Read the full Minnesota [Olmstead Plan](#) on our website.
- Learn more about the history of *Olmstead* and the expansion of the Americans with Disabilities Act on the [Olmstead and ADA website](#).

- **Get involved**

- Send in your comments or questions about the Minnesota Olmstead Plan to MNOlmsteadPlan@state.mn.us.
- Join us for one of the monthly [Olmstead Subcabinet meetings](#) to listen, or if you choose, to share your story, or apply to serve on our Olmstead Community Engagement Workgroup, starting in spring 2017.