

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021  
9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair  
Dan Reed, Vice Chair  
Michelle Albeck  
Wendy Berghorst  
Dupree Edwards  
Lisa Emmert  
Jaclyn Ferrier  
Kay Hendrikson  
Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson  
Amy Hewitt  
Senator John Hoffman  
Lesli Kerkhoff  
Mary Martin  
Abdi Matan  
Jillian Nelson  
Stacie Nelson  
Garrett Petrie  
Kate Quale  
Connie Rabideaux

Jacki Rightler  
Reid Scheller  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Dan Stewart

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Krista Bahnsen (will be leaving the state/resignation)  
Jason Blomquist

**STAFF PRESENT**

Paul Nevin  
Colleen Wieck

**GUESTS**

Shelley Madore, Olmstead Implementation Office

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Shervheim called attendance by last name in alphabetical order and asked members to give a brief introduction of themselves. Shervheim announced that Abdi Matan has been appointed to fill Kate Onyeneho's seat (private nonprofit) and Chris McVey will be succeeding Jacqueline Rightler as the VR/DEED representative. Krista Bahnsen is leaving the State of Minnesota and has announced her resignation.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Shervheim asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

**MOTION:** J. Nelson moved, seconded by Albeck to approve the Agenda. The agenda was approved.

**IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR MARCH 5, 2021**

Shervheim asked for approval of both sets of Minutes.

**MOTION:** J. Nelson moved, seconded by Hernandez-Wilson to approve both sets of Minutes. Shervheim proceeded with a roll call vote to approve the Council Minutes for February 3, 2021 and the Executive Committee Minutes for March 5, 2021.

Albeck, Berghorst, Edwards, Emmert, Ferrier, Hernandez-Wilson, Hewitt, Hoffman, Kerkhoff, Martin, Matan, J. Nelson, S. Nelson, Petrie, Quale, Rabideaux, Reed, Rightler, Scheller, Shervheim, Smith, and Stewart all responded in the affirmative. There were no dissents. Motion carried.

**V. OLMSTEAD IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE OVERVIEW AND OLMSTEAD AMENDMENT PROCESS**

Shelly Madore who has served as the Director of the Olmstead Implementation Office for more than a year presented a PowerPoint presentation that is attached to these Minutes.

She described the composition of the Olmstead Subcabinet and the duties of the Olmstead Implementation Office. She explained the Olmstead Plan amendment process. Several improvements have been made since Madore became Director including making the website accessible; increased use of social media channels; and simplification of the forms for submitting feedback. All Council members were encouraged to sign up for social media updates.

The amendment process has occurred annually since 2016. The Olmstead goals are not user friendly and so work continues to use Plain Language.

Beginning in May 2021, all Olmstead meetings will use Zoom which is an accessible virtual platform. This change enables increased participation in meetings by people with disabilities.

Madore demonstrated various website features. She was asked if there are character limits in submitting feedback and she said there were no character limits. Madore also showed the graphs which compare the goal language with performance results. Visitors to the Olmstead website have grown exponentially since the site has been revamped.

Madore was asked if the Olmstead Subcabinet had taken any action on the State Task Force Report on Employment and Retention of State Employees with Disabilities. Shelly referred to the Big Six topics that includes workforce issues. The Big Six topic areas will be the basis of plan expansion. Madore recognized several Council members as subject matter experts on issues such as juvenile justice and special education.

Madore was asked about the inequity between TEFRA and MAEPD fees. She explained that there will be opportunities to be involved in Hot Topic meetings.

Council members were encouraged to participate in community input groups. This led to a discussion about payment for participation by individuals with disabilities in state agency meetings. State agencies have funding for consultants and so people with disabilities should be valued for their expertise by being paid as consultants rather than regarded as free labor. We must meet people where they are. There may be a need for a best practices guide on how to consult with people with disabilities.

Another topic raised was how individuals with disabilities have become proficient with technology because of the pandemic. This could be another area of study or demonstration.

Members were encouraged to share success stories with the Olmstead Implementation Office. There is a specific section on the website that allows submission of personal stories.

Members expressed their appreciation for Madore's efforts to revitalize the Olmstead Plan and the Olmstead Implementation Office.

**VI. FIVE YEAR PLAN NEXT STEPS**

Shervheim asked all members to review the draft version of the Five Year Plan and to submit comments before April 30, 2021. Members expressed satisfaction with the amount of detail contained in the draft and appreciation of staff efforts. The Chair reminded all members that this Plan will guide actions and activities for the next five years.

**VII. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Emmert described that a small working group of the Grant Review Committee met on March 17, 2021. The next step in our Five Year Plan is to establish a budget for our grant funds which total \$756,293.00.

The group is recommending that the following program goals remain level funded:

- Self-advocacy \$120,000
- Cultural Outreach \$50,000
- Leadership Development \$210,000
- Employment \$80,000
- Training Conferences \$20,000
- Quality Improvement \$20,000

We recommend that Customer Research increase to \$100,000 because we would like to systematically study the intersectionality of developmental disabilities, disparities and race and ethnicity.

That increase leaves \$156,293 for Publications, Websites and Online Learning.

The proposed funding levels is attached to these minutes.

**MOTION:** Emmert moved, seconded by J. Nelson to approve the allocations as presented by a working group of the Grant Review Committee.

The members discussed the increased funding to conduct research about intersectionality and how the lack of data is a form of discrimination. Without data, the State is operating in ignorance.

Shervheim proceeded with a roll call vote:

Albeck, Berghorst, Edwards, Emmert, Ferrier, Hendrikson, Hernandez-Wilson, Hoffman Kerkhoff, Martin, Matan, J. Nelson, S. Nelson, Petrie, Quale, Rabideaux, Reed, Rightler, Scheller, Shervheim, and Smith all responded in the affirmative. There were no dissents. Motion carried.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Wieck referred members to the two Monthly Activity Reports for January and February 2021.

This morning we were notified that the Office of Management and Budget issued a directive that will allow all federal grantees to request a no cost extension. Our Council will apply in September so that FFY 2020 can be liquidated beyond September 30, 2021.

The second update is that the CDC has provided funding to ACL for the DD Network to assist with vaccinations for people with developmental disabilities. Nationally, the Councils will receive \$4 million and Minnesota will receive \$63,513.00 based upon a population formula. Minnesota will submit a letter of assurance to receive these funds and cooperation with the other DD network programs is encouraged.

The meeting ended with a viewing of a promotional video clip about Partners in Policymaking by three Council members: Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson, Bonnie Jean Smith, and Reid Scheller. Other promotional videos are online as the April website feature.

**IX.     ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Emmert moved the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Smith. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**FIVE YEAR PLAN**  
**GOAL STATEMENTS (FFYs 2022-2026)**  
**(Approved by the full Council on February 3, 2021)**

**Total allocation is \$1,080,418.00 and 70% for program goals=\$756,293.00**

**Goal #1: SELF ADVOCACY. Recommended funding level=\$120,000.00**

Develop a statewide network of well trained and informed self-advocates by fulfilling the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) requirements –

- A. Establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization, led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
- B. Support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.
- C. Support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions (Public Law 106-402, Section 124); and
- D. Assist in identifying alternative/other funding opportunities.

**Goal #2: CULTURAL OUTREACH (Targeted Disparity). Recommended funding level=\$50,000.00**

Support the development of leadership skills in culturally diverse communities through collaborative efforts with organizations in these communities. The purpose of this effort will be to increase knowledge and develop skills that will encourage participation in the *Partners in Policymaking*® program and joining the larger disability justice movement. Recognize the public health disparities, inequities, and intersectionality facing people with disabilities who are also black, indigenous, and persons of color (BIPOC), members of immigrant communities, and other groups experiencing marginalization to further encourage and support their participation in training, leadership, and advocacy.

**Goal #3: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. Recommended funding level=\$210,000.00**

Support and promote the development of leadership skills for families of children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities as advocates, spokespersons, and members of the larger disability rights movement.

Educate people about rights, self-determination, engagement in public policy advocacy, and learning best practices in the areas of education, technology, housing, employment, and other aspects of community participation.

Provide face to face training, online learning, blended learning, and graduate workshops as a means of reaching people and strengthening personal leadership skills.

**Goal #4: EMPLOYMENT. Recommended funding level=\$80,000.00**

Increase opportunities and the supports needed by individuals with developmental disabilities to be employed in integrated settings at or above minimum wage and benefits by:

- A. Providing individualized, person led, and person centered supports that may include technology and are necessary for a broad range of employment options prioritizing competitive, customized, or self-employment.
- B. Increasing and improving access to inclusive postsecondary education and other career focused training opportunities.
- C. Educating and building the capacity of employers and providers and implementing employer incentives that contribute to workforce development. This should include an introduction to disability culture and equity.
- D. Raising the expectations of individuals and families about the importance of having work experiences prior to and during high school (transition years). Increase their involvement by using and building their relationships and personal networks to reach public and private sector employers and identify job experiences in the community.
- E. Educate individuals and families on how to navigate the disconnects between large systems as they pursue employment, and support efforts for large systems to work more seamlessly for individuals and families.
- F. Increasing long term sustained employment for adults with job opportunities and careers, including follow up with individuals on careers and job transitions.
- G. Encouraging and developing robust person led and person-centered profiles for integrated and competitive employment training opportunities for youth ages 16-21 through K-12 school programs, school-employer partnership, and other options to promote workforce development into adulthood consistent with Minnesota Statutes.

**Goal #5: TRAINING CONFERENCES. Recommended funding level=\$20,000.00**

Provide ongoing education and training that reflect and address the outcomes (independence, productivity, self-determination, integration, and inclusion) as found in the DD Act into programs and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. These conferences will lead to greater networking and partnering with others across the state through a variety of delivery modes.

**Goal #6: CUSTOMER AND MARKET RESEARCH. Recommended funding level=\$100,000.00**

Conduct or commission statewide research studies to measure and assess quality outcomes (independence, productivity, self-determination, integration, and inclusion) of the DD Act through annual qualitative and quantitative surveys on new topics or issues or further research on topics or issues previously studied.

**Goal #7: PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITES, AND ONLINE LEARNING COURSES. Recommended funding level=\$156,293.00**

Provide information, education, and training that increases knowledge, skills, and abilities of end users through a broad range of multiple media formats by:

- A. Promoting accurate historical archiving of resource materials.
- B. Continuing to adopt the latest technological advancements in communications that may include social networking.
- C. Showcasing the positive roles and contributions of people with developmental disabilities.
- D. Increasing marketing efforts to ensure accessibility and wide dissemination of Council products; and
- E. Exploring new technology that is focused on the individual and saves the user's preferences and choices and suggests additional resources or learning courses based on those preferences and choices.
- F. Where possible, increase language access.

**Goal #8: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT. Recommended funding level=\$20,000.00**

Identify and implement an approach that promotes continuous quality improvement and apply those principles to all Council work.

**ALIGNMENT WITH THE OLMSTEAD PLAN**

The Council's Five Year Plan goals and activities will align with the Minnesota Olmstead Plan goals.



# How can I help shape the Olmstead Plan?

Shelley Madore

Director, Olmstead Implementation Office



OLMSTEAD  
IMPLEMENTATION OFFICE

[mn.gov/olmstead](https://mn.gov/olmstead)

# What is the Olmstead Plan?

The Olmstead Plan is a set of goals for Minnesota State Agencies. Together, these goals will help Minnesotans with disabilities live, learn, work, and enjoy life in the most integrated setting possible.

# Visit our new website

[www.mn.gov/olmstead](http://www.mn.gov/olmstead)

**Olmstead Plan**

[About the Plan](#)

[Dispute Referral](#)

[Quality of Life Survey](#)

**> Plan Amendment Participation**

[Subcabinet Meetings](#)

[Subcabinet Agencies](#)

## Olmstead Plan Amendment Participation

Every year, the Olmstead Plan is updated with new goals. Staff from 13 [Subcabinet Agencies](#) work together to propose new Plan goals based on the past year's results. The update is called a Plan Amendment.

As part of this process, we want to know what you think about the proposed updates. Providing your feedback is called Public Comment. Your comments will influence the final 2021 Minnesota Olmstead Plan.

### Who can comment on the proposed Plan Amendments?

- People with disabilities
- Family and friends of people with disabilities
- Any Minnesotan who wants to help make sure people with disabilities live, learn, work and enjoy life, the same as people who do not have disabilities.

### How can I comment?

- Read the draft amendment documents here:

# Plan Amendment Participation

## Olmstead Plan Amendment Input Form - 2021

**Tennessen Warning:** The questions below are for the purpose of obtaining information that may help direct your concern to a Minnesota agency, if appropriate. You are not required to answer these questions and may refuse to do so. If you answer the questions, OIO can direct your concern to the appropriate agency. If you do not answer the questions, we might not be able to direct your concern to the appropriate agency. OIO will release your information to the appropriate State agency or to such other entity as you may authorize OIO in writing. However, in certain circumstances, OIO may be required to share your information with other parties, such as in response to a court order or when required by law. OIO may provide summary information to the Olmstead Subcabinet about themes of concerns OIO receives.

The plan amendment area I'm commenting on:

- ☐ Person-Centered Planning
- ☐ Transition Services
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Timeliness of Waiver Funding
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Healthcare and Healthy Living
- ☐ Positive Supports
- ☐ Crisis Services
- ☐ Community Engagement
- ☐ Preventing Abuse and Neglect
- ☐ Assistive Technology

My comments

# Plan Amendment Input Form

[Home](#) > [Work Groups](#)

► **Work Groups**

[Juvenile Justice & Special Education](#)

[Adults with Disabilities & the Justice System](#)

[Workforce & People with Disabilities](#)

[Data Collection Practices](#)

[Preventing Abuse & Neglect of People with Disabilities](#)

[Affordable, Safe, Accessible Housing](#)

## Minnesota Olmstead Plan Work Groups

In 1999, the Supreme Court ruled that people with disabilities have certain rights. [The Olmstead Decision](#) says people must get to make the choices that are best for themselves. Every state is required to have an Olmstead Plan; Minnesota has had a plan since 2015. [The Plan](#) also acts as a map, making sure that we are going in the right direction. The Plan is a good starting point for us and is moving in the right direction.

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

- looking at barriers to providing services to people in the most integrated setting
- identifying inequalities that don't allow people to live, work, engage with their community
- looking for ways to serve people better to promote better health outcomes

In October 2020, the Subcabinet created 6 new work groups to look at these issues. The work groups will discover new ways to better serve people with disabilities. They will be made up of State Agency staff, providers, and people with disabilities who can share lived experiences in these areas. Click on the links below to learn more about each work group.

# Workgroups

#### Work Groups

Juvenile Justice & Special Education

Adults with Disabilities & the Justice System

#### Workforce & People with Disabilities

Data Collection Practices

Preventing Abuse & Neglect of People with Disabilities

Affordable, Safe, Accessible Housing

## Workforce and People with Disabilities

### Workgroup Goal

The [Subcabinet members](#) have asked this workgroup to investigate the connection between workforce shortage and career opportunities for people with disabilities. Data shows that people with disabilities have higher rates of unemployment than their non-disabled peers.

Working together with community members, State Agency staff will develop strategies to address this issue. The Olmstead Implementation Office will host public meetings for feedback.

### State Agencies Assigned:

- [Department of Employment and Economic Development](#) (DEED)
- [Department of Human Services](#) (DHS)
- [Department of Corrections](#) (DOC)
- [Department of Education](#) (MDE)

OIO will begin accepting applications on March 22, 2021. The workgroups will begin meeting in April. You can

# Workforce and People with Disabilities

**Get Involved**

**> Community Input Group**

[Take a Poll](#)

[Boards & Commissions](#)

## Community Input Group

Do you want to help make the State of Minnesota better for people with disabilities? Do your strengths include writing, editing, public speaking, or technology?

### What does the Olmstead Community Input Group do?

- The Olmstead Community Input Group gives advice on many different topics important to Minnesotans with disabilities.
- The group guides and advises the [Olmstead Implementation Office](#) (OIO) and [State Agencies](#).
- This group helps strengthen and expand engagement between the State of Minnesota, people with disabilities, and the general public.

#### Members of this group might give input on things such as:

- New technology
- Olmstead Plan amendments
- Training videos

# Community Input Group

[Home](#) > [Get Involved](#) > [Share Your Olmstead Story](#)

**Get Involved**

[Community Input Group](#)

[Boards & Commissions](#)

[➤ Share Your Olmstead Story](#)

## Share your Olmstead Story

The Olmstead Implementation Office (OIO) collects stories from people with disabilities. Stories help the Olmstead Subcabinet understand how to help people with disabilities live, learn, work, and enjoy life the way they choose.

Will you share your story with us? You can share:

- A story about being able to choose where you live, work, or go to school
- What community integration means to you
- What successes you have had because of the Minnesota Olmstead Plan
- What barriers keep you from being able to live, learn, work, and enjoy life in the most integrated setting

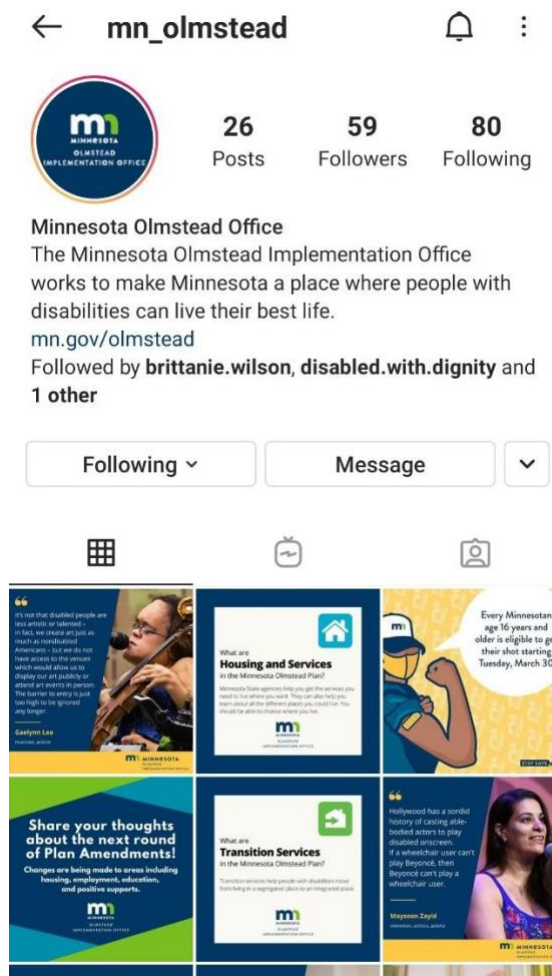
### How do I share my story?

If you are over 18 years old, you can complete this online form: [Share Your Olmstead Story](#).

# Share Your Olmstead Story

# Follow us on social media!

- Facebook:  
[facebook.com/MNOlmsteadPlan](https://facebook.com/MNOlmsteadPlan)
- Twitter: [@MNOlmstead](https://twitter.com/MNOlmstead)
- Instagram: [@MN\\_Olmstead](https://www.instagram.com/MN_Olmstead)
- LinkedIn:  
[linkedin.com/company/minnesota-olmstead](https://linkedin.com/company/minnesota-olmstead)



# Sign up for our newsletter!

- [tinyurl.com/mn-olmstead-news](https://tinyurl.com/mn-olmstead-news)



Sign up to receive Olmstead Implementation Office News and Updates. Thank you and welcome!

[Usage/Privacy Policy](#)

First name \*

Last name \*

Email \*

What is your connection to the disability community? \*

If other, please describe:

What county do you live in?

\* = required field

SUBMIT

**Shelley Madore**

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