

The Olmstead Commission's goal is to move North Dakota towards greater integration and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Olmstead Commission Advisory Council

July 16th at 1pm

History of Care Coordination and The Arc Lawsuit

July 16th at 6:30pm

Walking Beside You, Family and Caregiver Support Group

July 28th at 6:30pm

Shared Learning Group for Families on Suicide Prevention Support Strategies

July 30th at 12pm

Shared Learning Group for Individuals with Lived Experience on Suicide Prevention Support Strategies

July 30th at 2pm

NEXT OLMSTEAD MEETING:

Wednesday, August 12th
1-3pm in the
Peace Garden Room
at the Capitol

Discussion Topic:
Goal #4- Housing

Join meeting [here](#).

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH: WHY JULY?

July is recognized as Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the strength, diversity, achievements, and contributions of individuals with disabilities. It is also a month to reflect on the ongoing work of creating communities where everyone can participate, belong, and thrive. July was chosen because it marks the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990. The ADA is a landmark civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and helps ensure equal access to employment, education, transportation, and community living.

Disability Pride Month encourages us to recognize disability as a natural part of human diversity and to celebrate the unique perspectives, talents, and experiences that individuals with disabilities bring to our communities. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness, promote accessibility, support self-advocacy, and continue advancing inclusion and independence for all. As we celebrate Disability Pride Month, we honor the progress that has been made, acknowledge the challenges that remain, and reaffirm our commitment to building a future where everyone has the opportunity to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE: 250 YEARS OF PROGRESS AND POSSIBILITY

Every July, Americans celebrate Independence Day—a time to reflect on freedom, opportunity, and the ability to pursue their own paths. This year carries special significance as our nation commemorates its 250th anniversary, marking an important milestone in our shared history and offering a meaningful opportunity to consider how the ideals of independence, freedom, self-determination, and full participation in community life continue to evolve across generations and communities.

Over the past 250 years, the understanding of who has access to freedom and opportunity has expanded. Disability rights advocates have played an important role in advancing inclusion and ensuring that individuals with disabilities have greater control over decisions affecting their lives. Through advancements in accessibility, assistive technology, community-based services, supported decision-making, more individuals are able to pursue their goals and live with greater autonomy.



Landmark achievements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Independent Living Movement, and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision have helped expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to live, work, and receive services in their communities rather than in segregated settings.

Today, independence can take many forms. It may mean living in a home of one's choosing, pursuing meaningful employment, making personal decisions, accessing transportation, or participating in community activities. While each person's journey is unique, the common thread is the ability to exercise choice and have control over one's own life.

As we celebrate Independence Day and America's 250th anniversary, we also recognize the importance of ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to experience independence in ways that are meaningful to them. This July, let us celebrate both our nation's history and the continued progress toward a future where every individual has the freedom, support, and opportunity to thrive.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

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