

# NORTH DAKOTA OLMSTEAD COMMISSION

## THE COMMISSION

11

Voting Members

8

Non-Voting Members

1

Commission Coordinator

## OUR PURPOSE

**Mission:** Move North Dakota toward greater integration and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

**Vision:** Individuals with disabilities can live, learn, work, travel, and enjoy life in the most integrated setting possible.

**Values:** Individuals with disabilities have the same basic human rights, options, and control over choices in their lives as any other citizen.

**Objective:** Implement the Olmstead decision by ensuring access to appropriate community-based services to individuals with disabilities.

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES



### Community Services and Supports

Services and support for individuals with disabilities must be provided in the least restrictive setting.



### Housing

Homes should be affordable, accessible, and fully integrated into communities where those with and without disabilities live together.



### Transportation

Community transportation must be accessible, reliable, efficient, and available to individuals with and without disabilities.



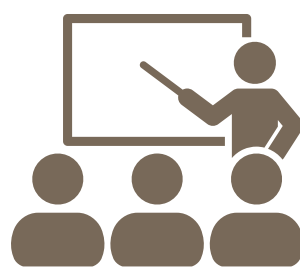
### Employment

Individuals with disabilities must have access to competitive, integrated employment aligned with their interests.



### Healthcare

Individuals with disabilities have the right to participate in their healthcare needs, including choice of providers and services received.



### Education

Individuals with disabilities are entitled to education in the same setting as their peers, to the fullest extent possible.

## DELIVERING ON OUR MISSION

Outreach

Collaboration

Advocacy

Communications

Community Engagement

### Cooperative Partnerships

- State Agencies
- Non-Profits
- Service Providers
- Stakeholders
- Advocates
- Individuals with Lived Experience
- Community Partners

## HOW WE STAY CONNECTED

### Monthly Check-Ins

Coordinator checks in with the Commission Co-Chairs at least once a month to provide updates and ensure alignment on priorities.

### Quarterly Commission Meetings

Quarterly, the Commission convenes to review policies and systems, discuss statewide services, and offer recommendations aimed at better serving individuals with disabilities.

### Public Comment

The Commission welcomes feedback from the public through comments at quarterly meetings or via email and phone.

## OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**380**

PEOPLE  
REACHED

Shared information on the Olmstead Commission, its mission, and its goals and initiatives to centers for independent living, providers, and advocacy groups. Hosted educational booths at the Behavioral Health & Children and Family Services Conference, Parkinson's Seminar, and Disability Pride Day to promote the Commission's work and mission.

**30**

STAKEHOLDERS  
ENGAGED

Hosted and presented at the Olmstead Conference which engaged stakeholders in learning, networking, and collaboration, highlighting six programs. Representatives from Money Follows the Person, Developmental Disabilities Waiver, The Arc, 1915(i), Protection and Advocacy's Workforce and Technology Project, and the Freedom Resource Center all presented, showcasing services and resources available to individuals with disabilities across North Dakota.

**6**

PROGRAMS  
HIGHLIGHTED

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

**Welcomed a New Coordinator**, contributing a fresh perspective and energy to ongoing initiatives, and helping to advance the Commission's mission.

**Reestablished Quarterly Meetings**, strengthening collaboration, communication, and strategic planning.

**Created an Advisory Council**, ensuring individuals with lived experience inform Commission decision-making.

**Launched Monthly Newsletters** to strengthen communication and engagement with stakeholders.

**Expanded the Commission's Social Media Reach** by revitalizing Facebook and launching Instagram, providing timely updates, educating the community, and sharing community resources.

## ONGOING INITIATIVES

The Commission has been focused on our employment goal:

**Increasing employment opportunities and incomes for individuals with disabilities.**

The Commission received three presentations on Customized Employment, a strategy that tailors job duties and work environments to match the strengths and support needs of individuals with the most significant disabilities.

The Commission received two presentations on Workers with Disabilities Medicaid, an underutilized program in North Dakota, that ensures individuals with disabilities can work while maintaining their benefits at an affordable cost.

The Commission has published 34 employment-related social media posts, highlighting competitive integrated employment, the elimination of subminimum wage, and resources designed to support both employers and employees.