

ND OLMSTEAD COMMISSION

The **Olmstead Commission's goal** is to move ND forward towards greater integration & inclusion for persons with disabilities. For more information, go to <https://www.olmstead.nd.gov/> or contact us via our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NDOlmsteadCommission>.

Next Olmstead Commission Meeting:

Tuesday, July 19th, from 1:00—5:00 p.m., in the Dakota Room at Job Service ND, 1601 Century Ave in Bismarck.

Agenda items include:

- 1) Admissions to the LSTC and prevalence of ASD
- 2) 1915(i) services
- 3) Discussion of the DHS HCBS service implementation plans using \$30 million in ARPA funding

Upcoming Events

June 8 | 1pm | ND Money Follows the Person Stakeholders

June 9 | 10am | Council on Developmental Disabilities

June 9 | 1pm | DOJ Settlement Stakeholder Meeting

June 15 9:00am Acute Psychiatric Treatment Committee

June 28| 11am | Comm'n on Juvenile Justice

June 30 | 9am | Human Services Committee Notice

Opportunities!

The Olmstead Commission, as a part of its mission, urges persons with disabilities and their loved ones to provide their unique perspective to policymaking by applying for positions with some of the various board, councils, and commissions that help this state be the best it can be.

The Governor's office [has recently indicated](#) that there are more than 40 open commission positions for citizens to apply for. Visit <https://apps.nd.gov/gov/boards/> for more information. The Department of Public Instruction has [recently announced](#) an opportunity to participate in education policy. If you would like to be a part of "a diverse group of parents, guardians, caretakers, and educators of children," we encourage you to fill out an [Application for Family Engagement Cabinet](#) .

Julie Beckett

Julie Beckett, one of the founders of Family Voices, passed away on Friday, May 13, at her home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The advocacy efforts that she led on behalf of her daughter, Katie Beckett, led to the creation of the federal TEFRA waiver, known as the Katie Beckett waiver, which has provided services for thousands of children nationwide.

"There sometimes comes a moment in parenting, you discover strength you didn't know you had — all because your child needs you."

April 20, 2022 Commission Meeting

The Commission met on April 20, 2022, and the main point of discussion was a request from the North Dakota Autism Spectrum Disorder Advocacy Coalition to inquire about the possibly disproportional rate of admissions for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder to the Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) in Grafton. The discussion included Jessica Thomasson, Executive Policy Director at the Department of Human Services, Tina Bay, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division, Heather Jenkins, Superintendent of the LSTC, and Dr. Paul Kostoe, Director of Clinical Services/Psychology at the LSTC.

There was an in-depth discussion, and the Commission and guests agreed to continue the discussion with additional information in July.

Commission members requested additional data on:

- length of stay
- admission/readmission rates and reasons
- co-occurring diagnoses
- assessments of individuals for HCBS services

As the Commission moved to continue the discussion until July, members brought forward questions for further development, including what are the issues within the DD services world that creates a “pressure” to admit individuals to the LSTC?

The next quarterly Commission Meeting, July 19, 2022, will have the following on the agenda:

- A continuation of the discussion on LSTC and the DD system, with further information on the admission, readmission, and discharge of individuals to the LSTC, and policies that play into those decisions.
- A discussion on the recent changes to the 1915(i) state plan amendment, with additional data on supportive housing efforts.
- Information on DHS plans for initiatives to use the \$31.6 million authorized by the legislature to be spent under ARPA §9817 on increasing home and community-based services.

North Dakota Olmstead Commissioners

Ryan Norrell, Co-Chair, Office of the Governor

Wally Goulet, Co-Chair, citizen member

Judy Lee, ND State Senator

Alisa Mitskog, ND State Representative

Bruce Romanick, ND District Judge

Carlotta McCleary, Mental Health America of ND

Scott Burlingame, Independence Center for Independent Living

Julie Horntvedt, State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Siobhan Deppa, citizen member

Veronica Zietz, Protection & Advocacy Project

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