

NORTH DAKOTA OLMSTEAD COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES OF
FEBRUARY 14, 2024 VIA TEAMS

1. Members Present:

- The Honorable Bruce Romanick, Veronica Zietz, Carlotta McCleary, Scott Burlingame, Julianna Horntvedt, Ryan Norrell, Wally Goulet

2. Other Attendees:

- Nikki Wegner, Jana Johnson, Trevor Vannett, Matt Schwarz, Donene Feist, Kayla Trzruc, David Klein, Brittany Hanson, Maggie Williams, Tina Bay, Kirsten Dvorak, Angie Bosch, Cindy Gabbert, and Becky Rosenkranz

3. Agenda Approval:

- The agenda covering the Olmstead Plan revision, Commission Planning, and Advisory Council comments was approved.

4. Minutes Approval:

- Ms. Zietz motioned, and Ms. McCleary seconded, to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion passed.

5. Welcome and Introductions:

- Mr. Goulet welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves, providing their name and affiliation.

6. Discussion of Olmstead Plan revision:

- Members reviewed the revised Olmstead Plan, which was made available for a 30-day public comment period. Feedback was solicited through various channels including the Commission website, social media, and email list serve (reaching approx. 450 people).
- Only three comments were received, emphasizing the importance of addressing staff and provider shortages, integrating Assistive Technology (AT) comprehensively, and aligning with models from other states like Minnesota and Nebraska.
- The Plan, now condensed from 28 to 9 pages, aims for better public readability while retaining key objectives and strategies. The role of AT in the Plan, particularly in education and workforce sectors, was discussed extensively.
- The Commission acknowledged the need for ongoing updates and detailed implementation plans, with a focus on collaboration with state agencies and education and outreach efforts led by Ms. Johnson.
- Motion was made by Ms. Zietz, seconded by Ms. McCleary, to approve the revised Olmstead Plan with the integration of AT information. The motion passed.

7. Commission Planning – Upcoming term limits:

- Members discussed the approaching term limits for current Commission members, highlighting the need for succession planning and potential mentorship programs for new appointees.
- Mr. Norrell is coordinating with the Governor's Office to address term limit concerns and ensure a smooth transition.
- Suggestions were made to stagger term limits and provide guidance for new members through ad hoc committees or mentorship initiatives.

8. Advisory Council Comment:

- The status of the Advisory Council (AC) was reviewed, with plans for further discussions on its necessity and composition. The importance of preventing overlap between AC and Commission memberships was emphasized.

9. Public Comment:

- No public comments were received.
- Judge Romanick and Ms. Zietz underscored the importance of engaging with other state entities, leveraging subcommittees, and supporting initiatives that align with the Olmstead Plan during the upcoming legislative session.

The next Olmstead Commission meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.