

Putting the promise of Olmstead into practice: Minnesota's Olmstead Plan

Overview

The state of Minnesota has changed the way people with disabilities experience the services they receive. Minnesota is committed to building a future where people with disabilities have the opportunity to live close to their families and friends as independently as possible; to work in competitive, integrated employment; to be educated in integrated schools; and to participate fully in community life.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) plays a significant role in achieving these goals. Minnesota's Olmstead Plan outlines measurable goals focused on increasing options available for people with disabilities. The goals are grouped into four themes:

- People's ability to choose where to live
- How people can access appropriate services
- How people feel about the quality of their lives
- Increasing options

The vision: People with disabilities are living, learning, working, and enjoying life in the most integrated setting.



Olmstead at DHS works to ensure that...



Person-centered

People with disabilities decide for themselves where they will live, learn, work and conduct their lives. Individuals choose services to support these decisions through a planning process, directed by the person or their representative, that helps discover and implement what is important to them.



Choice

People with disabilities receive information about the benefits of integrated settings through visits or other experiences, and they have opportunities to meet with other people with disabilities who are living, working, learning and receiving services in these settings.



Housing

People with disabilities choose where they live, with whom and in what type of housing. They can choose to have a lease or own their own home and to live in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Supports and services allow sufficient flexibility to support individuals' choices on where they live and how they engage in their communities.



Transitions

We provide services to people with disabilities in a way that helps them transition to the community and achieve their life goals. Services need to be appropriate to individual needs, reflect individual life choices, and enable people with disabilities to be active in the most integrated setting, settings that allow people with disabilities to interact with nondisabled persons to the fullest extent possible.



Direct care workforce

There are enough people available in the workforce to help people with disabilities be successful. This means people with disabilities have access to or improved care provided under Medicaid funded services. Increased access to care can allow people to live in and participate in their communities. Having well-trained direct care professionals in place can lead to better health outcomes, more consistent care as turnover rates drop, and becoming fully participating members of society.

For more information and the complete Olmstead plan, visit

www.dhs.state.mn.us/olmstead



For accessible formats of this publication or additional equal access to human services, write to dsd.responsecenter@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4300, or use your preferred relay service. (ADA1 [9-15])