

# **Olmstead Plan Stakeholder Advisory**

## **Quarterly Meeting**

**June 26, 2025, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Online**

### **Minutes**

#### **Welcome and Roll Call**

Deb Goda, Olmstead Director, was not able to attend so Dr. Tamara Smith, Associate Director of Olmstead/Transitions to Community Living (TCL), started the meeting and welcomed all attendees. To maximize time for the agenda attendees were asked to enter their name and agency in the chat to confirm attendance.

#### **Opening Remarks by Bryan Dooley, Co-Chair**

Bryan provided opening remarks and Dr. Smith announced she was happy to have him join today and thrilled he's agreed to continue to serve as co-chair.

#### **Money Follow the Person (MFP) - Presentation by Steve Strom, Project Director, Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project**

Steve presented on MFP. Some key points were noted

- Helps people live in the most integrated setting.
- Highlighted an individual that lived in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) and now has a job in the community making more than minimum wage. He participates in weekly music classes and faith weekly meetings with the help of MFP.
- Emphasized the program is not set up to help individuals with mental health disabilities primarily.

PowerPoint of the presentation was distributed to attendees and anyone who missed the meeting.

#### **Olmstead Quarterly Report and Next steps - Presentation by Rebecca Boss, Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC).**

Introduced a new format for the Olmstead quarterly report. Instead of focusing on six priority areas this time the report highlights two priority areas. Priority area #4 Increasing opportunities for pre-employment transition services and competitive integrated employment opportunities and priority area #6 Promote the workforce development, recruitment, and retention.

Priority area #4: Inclusion works data was taken directly from the inclusion works website and this information is public.

Highlight: Project Spark Facebook website

Project Spark helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities find jobs in the community and provides support to help them succeed.

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/employment-and-independence-people-disabilities/special-initiatives-disability-employment/project-spark>

### **Olmstead Accomplishments – Presentation by Dr. Tamara Smith, Associate Director of Olmstead/TCL**

Dr. Smith announced the addition of an OPSA spotlight to the quarterly meetings. The goal is to encourage people to highlight an individual, project, program, etc. that shows how NC is improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. If you have ideas, please email Dr. Smith [tamara.smith@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tamara.smith@dhhs.nc.gov) or add in the chat during quarterly meetings.

The first highlight is Asa Yost a TCL individual in the Partners Health Management catchment area who was housed in the community with a TCL housing slot. She was diverted from being admitted into an adult care home (ACH) and is living successfully in the community. The TCL individual is finding her voice and presented as one of the guest speakers at TCL's annual In Reach Collaborative conference in the Spring of 2025.

Additional information about Olmstead and the work that's happening can be found in our Quarterly Reports on our Olmstead page: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/administrative-offices/office-secretary/nc-olmstead>

### **Public Comment - Facilitated by Dr. Tamara Smith**

Jessica wanted to know if the services or information will be provided in other languages. Dr. Smith advised although every correspondence is not provided in multiple languages there is information available on the NCDHHS website in Spanish. OPSA documents are only provided in English, but we can discuss the need to translate to other languages if requested. There are language access requirements for Medicaid.

### **Closing Remarks & Adjournment – By Dr. Tamara Smith**

Dr. Smith thanked everyone for attending and reminded the group the next OPSA quarterly meeting is scheduled for September 2025. Once the date has been confirmed, the invite and agenda will be sent prior to the meeting.

### OPSA Attendees

Josh Walker- NCDHHS, Office of the Secretary (OOS)

Janie Shivar – NCDHHS, OOS

David Ingram - North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD)

Chad Stage – United Healthcare

Julie Bloomingdale- NCDHHS, Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD)

Steve Strom- NCDHHS, MFP

Jessica Frisina- NCDHHS, Division of Social Service (DSS)

Ginger Yarbrough- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS

Jenny Hobbs- NC Child

Corye Dunn- Disability Rights of NC, (DRNC)

Jessica Aguilar- State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC)

Rebecca Boss- TAC

Kent Davis- Mathematica

Kareen Feasel- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS

Brandy Burns- NCDHHS, Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities (DSOHF)

Sarah Potter- Parent Advocate, Meet the Need

Myles Sims- NCDHHS, EIPD, Intern

Debra Farrington- NCDHHS, Health Portfolio

Pamela Lloyd- NCDHHS, EIPD

Matt Potter- NC Empowerment Network

Breanna Arndt- Mathematica

Kathleen Gibson- Oxford House Inc.

Bryan Dooley- Solutions for Independence

Betty Vines- NCDHHS, DMHDDSUS

Megan Lee- TAC

Vickie Callair- NCDHHS, OOS

Tamara Smith- NCDHHS, OOS/DMHDDSUS