



January 22, 2015

**TO: Chair Mack and the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee**  
**FROM: Altair ACO**  
**RE: Recommendations for the Olmstead Plan**

Dear Chair Mack and members of the Committee:

As you consider Minnesota's Olmstead Plan, we hope you will take this opportunity to consider encouraging and incentivizing innovative practices by providers that will help to meet the goals of Olmstead.

The Altair ACO is a collaborative of six community service providers and a health care practice – Hammer Residence, Lifeworks, Living Well, Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres, Opportunity Partners, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and Bluestone Physicians Group, serving over 6,600 individuals with disabilities in Minnesota and working together to address the changing needs of people with disabilities and Minnesota. The vision of Altair is for individuals with disabilities to live as independently as possible in community, making choices that affect their own lives, and contributing to the community in which they live.

Below are some specific recommendations that would support movement into the community as directed by the Minnesota Olmstead Plan:

- Organizations should be educated, supported and reimbursed for offering “person-centered life planning” to discover what services an individual needs and wants within their particular budget. When given choices and planning assistance, persons with disabilities will tend to spend less on maintenance and safety, and will choose the services he/she really needs and wants, thus saving money and providing the greater freedom intended in Olmstead.
- Providers should be encouraged to collaborate and share resources that will support individuals moving into community and work. The savings that are achieved should be reinvested in the system to move more individuals into community and work, and to move people off of the waiting lists.
- Individuals who do not require 24/7 support should be encouraged to live in a more independent setting, and affordable housing should be increased to accommodate the increased needs.
- Quality Councils, as outlined in the State Quality Council Legislative report dated March 2013, should be paired with Olmstead regional offices to assist in educating individuals, families, providers, communities and counties across the state on person centered

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thinking, planning and choice. Measuring outcomes and supports of each individual as defined by their plan or by a national tool such as the 21 outcomes of CQL.

Investing in moving individuals to lower cost, more independent services and settings, and incenting providers to do so by allowing reinvestment in those services, will support Minnesota to meet the requirements of Olmstead, save on costs of healthcare and social services and create more independent lives for many people with disabilities.

Sincerely,



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