



# Brain Injury Alliance

I O W A

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Geoffrey Lauer  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July, 20 2012

Dear Members of the Outcomes and Performance Measures Committee,

I am honored to serve with you on the Outcomes and Performance Measures Committee and I regret that I am unable to attend the first meeting on July 23. My goal as an OPM Workgroup member is to bring at least two perspectives to this effort.

The Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa advocates for the more than 95,000 Iowans with long-term disability from brain injury. As Executive Director of BIA-IA, I seek to increase the capacity of Iowans disability services systems to meet the core brain injury service and support needs. I also serve as the Chairperson of Iowa's Olmstead Consumer Task Force and, with many of you, am well aware of the requirements to demonstrate that Iowa's disability services system is delivering accountable performance in supporting "a life in the community" for those served. We must also remember that there remain significant numbers of Iowans with real needs who are underserved, and yet unserved.

Specifically in your deliberations on the 23rd I request:

- 1) That you review and consider the recommendations of the MHDS Redesign Brain Injury Workgroup. Through considered and exhaustive efforts this workgroup reviewed and established a prioritized list for essential services and supports for Iowans with Brain Injury. Outcomes and performance measures for Iowans with brain injury, and

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*The mission of the Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, advocacy, education, research, and support.*

associated brain injury services, **must** be included in our effort.

- 2) That as you discuss the "Characteristics of Measures" you strongly consider the following: Efficiency, Effectiveness, Access, Availability, Appropriateness, and Acceptability of services. These are some of the areas shown important to individuals with disability from brain injury, and other disabilities.
- 3) That you seek to integrate into the OPM effort hard measures of specific Dept. of Human Services Olmstead plan outcomes. More specifically "who will be responsible for specific, measurable performance and outcomes by when". The Dept. of Human Services Olmstead Plan, and its general and specific outcomes, have been painstakingly considered and developed to address the critical need to move Iowa more rapidly towards meeting the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court requiring that services to persons with disabilities must be provided "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of...individuals with disabilities."

Thank you for considering these comments and requests.

Sincerely,

*Geoffrey M. Lauer*

Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa  
Chairperson, Iowa Olmstead Consumer Task Force