

Data Summary Report

This report summarizes the key results for the data priority (Goal 6) of Nebraska’s Olmstead Plan. Findings are based on data collected and compiled as part of the full evaluation. Those are summarized in Appendix A of the evaluation report.

Goal

- 6 Individuals with disabilities will receive services and supports that reflect data-driven decision-making, improvement in the quality of services, and enhanced accountability across systems.

54% of other states’ Olmstead Plans that were reviewed included data-driven decision-making.

Vision for the Goal

Focus group and interview participants who discussed community supports would like to see:

- Key partners, stakeholders, and organizations having access to relevant data that’s accurate and reliable.
- Tools and technology accessible and available to consumers to manage their own cases including tracking applications, see when due dates are approaching, and know when paperwork is being processed.

“Success is the ability to automate reports that can consistently and correctly translate data entered in multiple systems into usable, visualized information that can be used to quickly make a decision ... You want good, clean data that creates easy to understand reports so that folks could make the best decision, based on the numbers.”

Noted Successes

Those who participated in the interviews and focus groups noted wins that occurred within this Olmstead Plan goal area.

- A list of key performance indicators was created. Having a set of data to pull and review for the Olmstead Plan was hoped to be a step in the right direction for the goal area.
- Data was integrated into an Enterprise data warehouse, which did not exist in the same capacity a few years before.

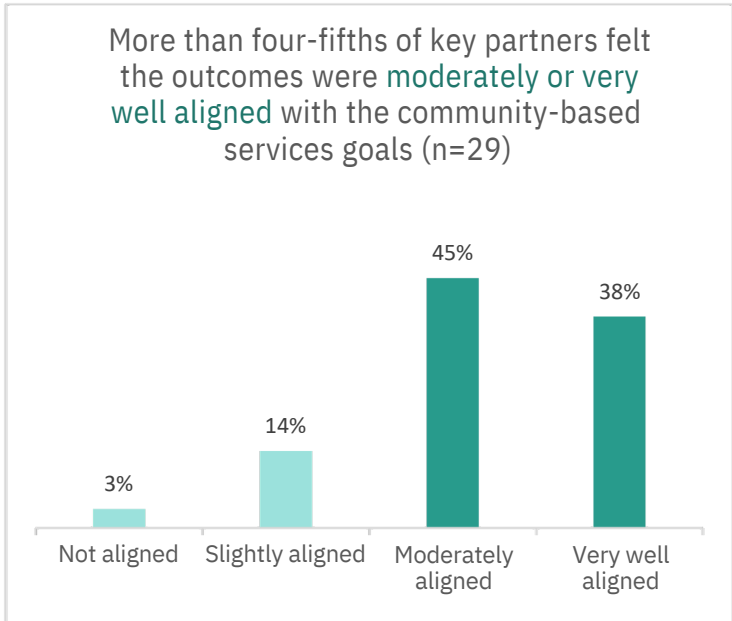
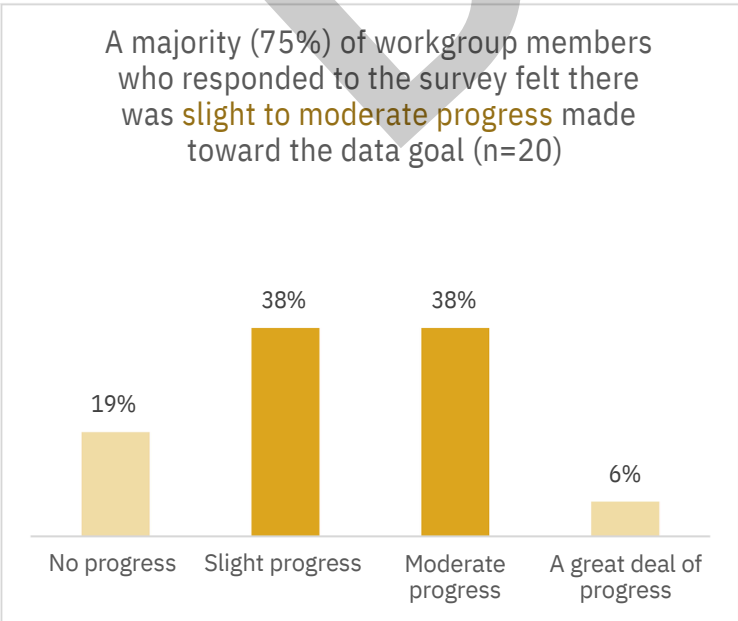
“It’s [data access is] in a much better state now and [is] able to provide them accurate, reliable data on a regular basis.”

Progress Toward & Perception of Outcomes

5/6 Goal 6 benchmarks for FY23 (July 2022 – June 2023) were met.

| Symbol | Description |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| ✓ | Benchmark met |
| ➡ | Benchmark in progress |
| ▲ | Progress is delayed or pending |
| ■ | Benchmark not met |
| No Report | Data was not available |

| Benchmarks for Goal 6 | FY23 Status | FY24 Status |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| 1 Improve interagency data sharing and demonstrate data outcomes. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 Increase evidence-based programs through the Family First Prevention Services Act within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 DHHS divisions will generate comprehensive and longitudinal data. | ➡ | ✓ |
| 4 The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will evaluate the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver system and registry to identify best practices in waiver management and service provision. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5 Increase tracking of incidents and quality improvement actions with Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs. | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6 Increased publicly available tracking and reporting of DD system quality and performance metrics through the DHHS website. | ✓ | ✓ |



Facilitators & Barriers

Factors that aid the workgroup and partners with making progress on the data goal as well as the challenges to progress were identified through focus groups, surveys, and interviews.

Facilitators to Progress

- ✓ The Enterprise system will enhance the way people apply for and get qualified for benefits. It creates a more streamlined approach, which will be good for consumers and stakeholders.
- ✓ Project management (primarily from the Olmstead Plan staff), for the data-sharing work has been helpful for moving the work forward: *“I think that of all the facilitation and project management that I’ve encountered, [they are] just a natural at getting everything aligned and moving along at a pace that is productive but not daunting.”*

Barriers to Progress

- There are capacity and workforce challenges with getting data. Often the people who are able to pull the data are consumed with other work.
- Some data systems are outdated and need to be replaced so they’re more modernized.
- Having data does not always ensure that it is “clean” data. *“Clean data is always an issue everywhere. When you have multiple people entering multiple versions of the same thing, where you put a comma changes your data.”*
- Many systems have optional data fields, and in most cases, it may not be available. *“Sometimes the data we’re seeking to base our equity and access decisions on is just not available because it’s optional data that’s not given to us.”*
- Sharing data across state agencies isn’t always feasible – either due to systems not linking or inability to share data.

Recommendations

- 1 Consider removing data as a stand-alone goal for the Olmstead Plan.** Many states integrate data objectives or activities into other priorities within their plans. Doing something similar in Nebraska may help to focus data efforts.
--- If data remains a stand-alone goal, it may be helpful to modify outcomes and activities to focus more on understanding, gathering, and sharing more of the basic data that is needed by partners and stakeholders. Many expressed a desire to have a sense for current needs and gaps within the seven goals. That could be accomplished by exploring data sources that other states used to monitor their outcomes.
- 2 Utilize the data workgroup as a vehicle to showcase progress toward goals.** With the group’s focus on data, members could assist with tasks such as creating a two-page summary report or complementary documents highlighting the successes of the Olmstead Plan. That may also provide an opportunity to share the data in a meaningful way, helping to achieve the vision for the goal.
- 3 Consider integration of evaluation efforts into the data work.** Beyond tracking outcomes and metrics, it may be helpful to capture qualitative data to provide more context for progress. It would be an opportunity to keep evaluation top of mind beyond having an external contractor conduct an evaluation every three years. As an example, an ad hoc evaluation group was formed during the implementation of this evaluation project. Ongoing discussions around evaluation may help enhance data collection opportunities and identify future needs.