March 13, 2017

Dear District Residents, Community Members, and Stakeholders:

In 1999, the Supreme Court issued the *Olmstead v L.C.* decision which required states to eliminate unnecessary segregation of persons with disabilities and to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.[[1]](#footnote-1) Pursuant to this ruling and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II, state and local governments must demonstrate that they have a plan for people with disabilities moving from nursing homes, hospitals, and other institutional settings. The constituents must have the ability to make an informed, self-determined choice about how they wish to transition back into the community. To that end, the DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR) welcomes your review and comment on the District of Columbia’s 2017-2020 Olmstead Community Integration Plan.

This document was developed by members of the *Olmstead Working Group*, convened by Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2016. It includes input from District agencies, community partners, and residents on the services and supports surrounding individuals in transition from long-term care or residential facilities into the community. The Plan addresses the same nine (9) priority areas that were addressed in the 2016 Plan: Person-Centered Culture; Community Engagement, Outreach and Training; Employment; Housing; Intake, Enrollment and Discharge Processes; Medicaid Waiver Management and Systems Issues; Quality of Institutional and Community-Based Services, Providers and Workforce; Supporting Children and Youth; and Wellness and Quality of Life. For each priority area, there are measureable benchmarks for which the agencies responsible are held accountable on both a quarterly and an annual basis.

The District welcomes your input as we work together to finalize the 2017 Olmstead Plan and put these written goals into motion. We ask that you provide your input by Monday, April 17, 2017. Send your comments to: [olmstead@dc.gov](mailto:olmstead@dc.gov) or the Office of Disability Rights, 441 4th Street, NW, Suite 729 North, Washington, DC 20001, c/o Jessica Hunt. Please feel free to contact us at 202-724-5055 or [olmstead@dc.gov](mailto:olmstead@dc.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Alexis P. Taylor**

Director, the Office of Disability Rights (ODR)

1. 527 U.S. 581 (1999); <https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)