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STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF

Health <sup>AND</sup> Human

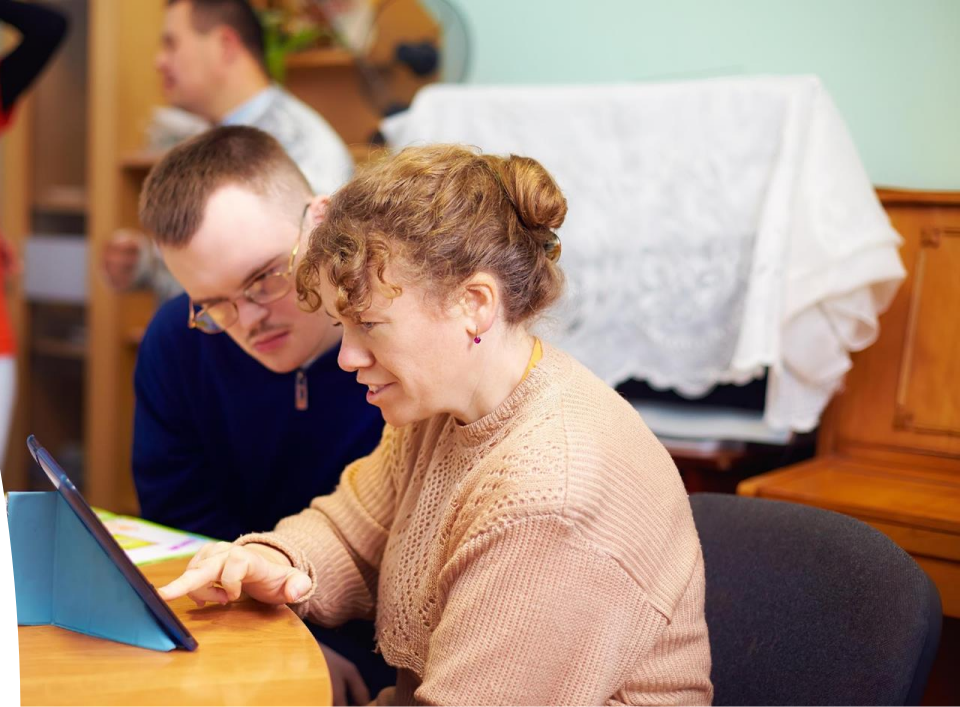
SERVICES

# Behavioral Health System Alignment

2024

# Why System Alignment

- In the current system:
  - lowans do not know how to access services
  - Health outcomes for lowans are not satisfactory
  - There's a large amount of duplicative administration system-wide
  
- Through alignment HHS plans to:
  - Ensure lowans have consistent access to health and human services
  - Use funding more effectively to achieve outcomes
  - Consolidate and streamline contracting and administration



# Assessment

- HHS worked with Health Management Associates (HMA) to conduct an assessment.
- HMA's recommendation report includes:
  - An overview of the service delivery areas
  - Proposed funding models for the local HHS systems
  - Identification of Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Rules impacted by the recommendations.

## 7 Town Halls

**PARTICIPANTS: 764**

**IN-PERSON: 4**  
(232 people)

**VIRTUAL: 3**  
(532 people)

HMA asked  
*"What's working?"*  
*"What issues should be addressed?"*

## 35 Stakeholder Interviews

**PARTICIPANTS: 167**

- ▶ HHS staff
- ▶ HHS contractors
- ▶ Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)
- ▶ Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

## 3,152 Stakeholder Surveys

**PARTNERS: 860**

**CONSUMERS: 2,292**

**Challenges**  
Insufficient funding, lack of workforce, training needed in best practices.

**Strengths**  
Committed local providers, good communication between services and support.

## 7 Director Roundtables

**PARTICIPANTS: 160**

- ▶ Local Service Providers
- ▶ County System Administrators
- ▶ Legislators

# Case for Behavioral Health System Alignment

## SIGNIFICANT NEED

- Nationally, 38.3% of adults aged 18 or older with any mental illness reported unmet need for mental health treatment due to not knowing where to go for services (2021).
- Nationally, 17.9% of individuals 12 or older reported unmet need for substance use treatment due to not knowing where to go for services (2021).
- 13.5% of Iowans reported experiencing frequent mental distress in 2022.

## INCENTIVE FUND

- Currently, the incentive fund includes \$23,955,429 in unspent dollars by the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) regions.
- Areas in need of support include statewide efforts such as 988, Your Life Iowa, and the development of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs).

## ONGOING LITIGATION

- Both the Children's Mental Health lawsuit and the DOJ consent decree target areas of inconsistent support by MHDS regions: crisis services for children and services for individuals with disabilities.

## SYSTEM-WIDE REDUNDANCIES EXIST

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) will transform the provider network in Iowa. Review of existing structures in the behavioral health safety net and continued system alignment will be critical.

# Goals for Behavioral Health System Alignment

A well coordinated system with clear access points for Iowans.

Iowans will have access to the same set of behavioral health services across the state no matter where they live.

Reduce system redundancies by linking Federal, State and local governance.

Eliminate administrative red tape and duplicative efforts.

## Current State

Funding a variety  
of things not linked  
to outcomes.



## Future State

Provider funding  
tied to measurable  
outcomes.

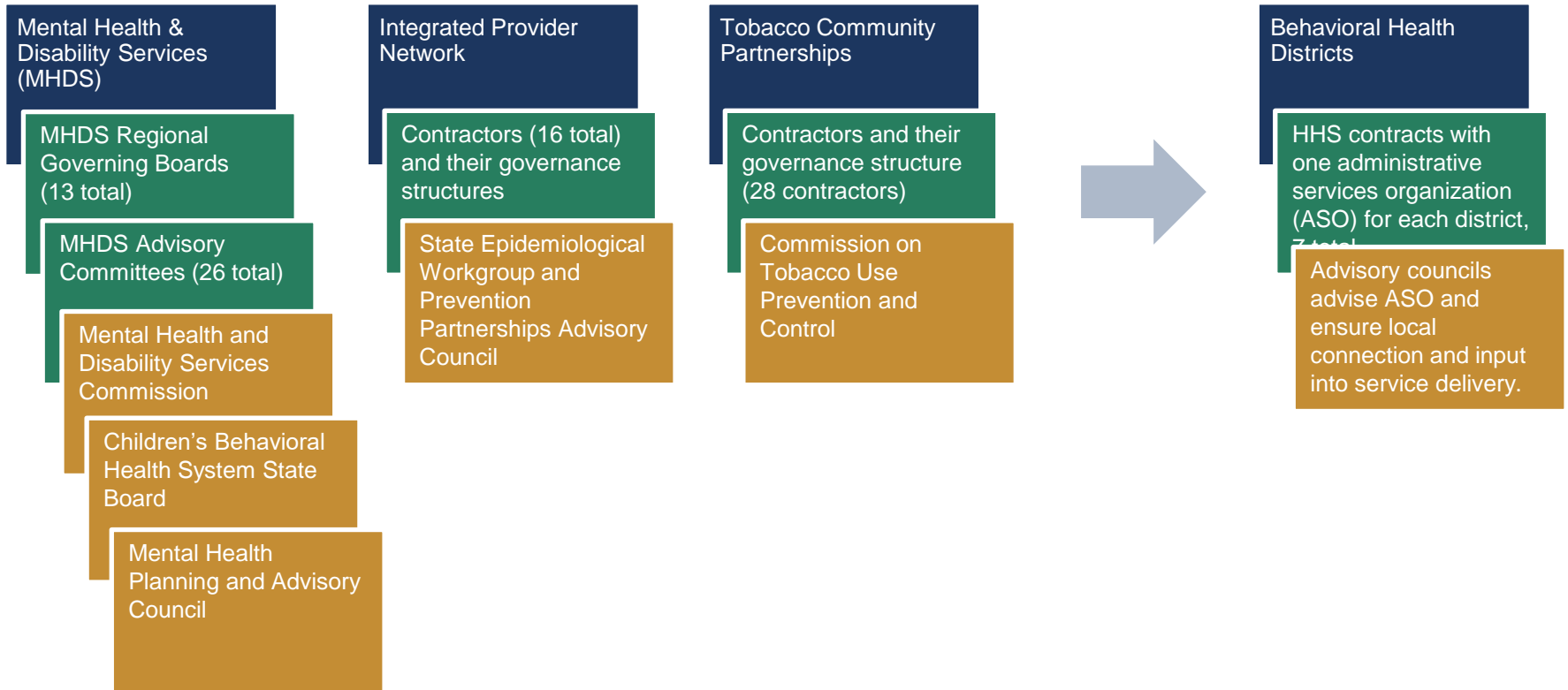
# Next Steps



## **Introduce Legislation for a new Behavioral Health Services System:**

- Establish new code chapter for Iowa's Behavioral Health Service System
- Integrate disability services language with Aging to concentrate focus on home and community based long term services and supports
- Establish structure, function, governance and authority for new district Administrative Service Organizations (ASO).

# Current State → Future State





# Behavioral Health Districts

