

Possible Legislative Priorities – Iowa Mental Health Planning Council

Iowa ACES – Caregiver and Maternal health

1. Extend Medicaid coverage from 2 months to 12 months
2. Increase access to evidence-based (prenatal) home visiting programs
3. Expand access to paid leave benefits

MHDS Commission

1. Expand incentives to train, recruit and retain all levels of the mental health workforce including pay, benefits, loan forgiveness repayment grants and fellowships.
2. Require insurance companies to enforce mental health parity.
3. Include children with ID, DD and Brain Injury to an integrated service system with the Children's Behavioral Health System for mental health and substance abuse and adjust the Regions' funding to reflect the additional populations.
4. Increase maximum cash carryover for regions from a maximum of 5% fund balance to an 18% fund balance.
5. Develop a data infrastructure to reveal outcomes and the effectiveness of evidence-based practices and other promising practices.

OIL (Older Iowans Legislature)

1. Improve nursing home care
 - Appropriations should be tied to outcomes and direct a portion to workforce challenges
 - Inadequate workforce – need incentives to recruit and retain – more training needed and wages and benefits need to be improved.
 - Agencies in charge of oversight need enhanced enforcement powers
2. Support passage of SF348 – Guardianship and Conservatorship bill
3. Using lottery proceeds to support the Iowa Return to Community program
4. Workforce improvements
 - Enacting a dementia specialist program
 - Fund a training package on mental health for direct caregivers
 - Fund a training package on dementia for direct caregivers
 - Increase wages for direct caregivers
 - Have the state provide a group healthcare plan, a group disability insurance plan and an individual retirement account for direct caregivers beyond their hourly wage. Some funding could come from nursing home appropriations
 - Establish a career ladder in the direct caregiver field.

Hope Harbor

- Training on substance abuse issues in the elderly
- Locations where SA and MH could both be treated in the elderly
- Training on positive behavioral supports
- Upon completing training, a hotline for caregivers to call when problem solving is needed
- Training with Teepa Snow (occupational therapist expert in dementia care)
- Case managers/navigators to assist families with finances and regulations

OCTF

- Increasing reimbursement to direct service providers
- Reform of the HCBS waivers
- Continued authorization of telehealth

Dr. Jerome Greenfield

- Re-entry specialists to assist with discharge planning (need to lower census of prisons)
- More apprenticeship programs so people have a skill(s) upon leaving DOC
- Nursing homes for incarcerated persons with dementia (275 people) under control of DOC to guarantee quality of care
- Implementation of BOLD Act by IDPH - [BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act | CDC](#)
 - Establish Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Public Health Centers of Excellence
 - Provide Funds to Support Public Health Departments
 - Increase Data Analysis and Timely Reporting
 - The activities outlined in BOLD are designed to create a uniform national public health infrastructure with a focus on issues such as increasing early detection and diagnosis, risk reduction, prevention of avoidable hospitalizations, and supporting dementia caregiving.
 - Iowa has received a core capacity grant

CAMHI4Kids

1. Enhance Medicaid funding and programs to assist with recruitment and retention in the workforce.
2. Continue to grow and support early intervention strategies

Please note: there is a wait list for PMICs, youth homeless shelters are at capacity

Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC)

Articles which may be of interest regarding legislative priorities:

Article: [Seniors home health care crisis deepened by covid labor shortage - The Washington Post](#)

Webinar: [Addressing the Needs of People with Brain Injuries in the Justice System - CSG Justice Center - CSG Justice Center](#)

[Feds object to sale of nursing home chain, citing \\$1 million owed to taxpayers - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Owing \\$1 million in fines, bankrupt nursing home chain prepped for sale - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Bank tells judge that Iowa nursing home residents are in a 'precarious position' - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Three Iowa nursing homes to close with owner owing taxpayers \\$2.1 million - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[State investigates 15 complaints against Sioux City nursing home, proposes fines - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Iowa agrees to treat \\$4 million owed to taxpayers as a 'lower priority' - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Six Iowa nursing homes run by one company are fined for abuse and neglect - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Cedar Rapids care facility cited for untrained workers, resident abuse - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)

[Assisted-living worker charged with murder will stand trial in March - Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)