

IOWA COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS	HHS STAFF
Rebecca Peterson ✓	Director Kelly Garcia
Dr. Donald Macfarlane ✓	Sarah Reisetter ✓
Sam Wallace ✓	Zach Rhein ✓
Jack Willey ✓	Sarah Ekstrand ✓
Dr. Monika Jindal ✓	Elizabeth Matney ✓
Kay Fisk ✓	Cory Turner
Andrew Allen ✓	Erin Drinnin
Sandra McGrath ✓	Janee Harvey
Samantha Rozeboom ✓	Marissa Eyanson ✓
	Robert Kruse ✓

EX-OFFICIO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS
Senator Jeff Edler
Senator Sarah Trone Garriott
Representative Heather Matson ✓
Representative Ann Meyer

Call To Order

Council Chair, Rebecca Peterson called the Council meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. via zoom teleconference.

Roll Call

All council members were in attendance.
No Ex-Officio members were present.

Kay Fisk moved to approve the February minutes and Jack Willey seconded this. The council members said “aye” no changes or issues.

HHS Council Subcommittee Report: Substance Use and Problem Gambling Licensure

Presented by **sub-committee chair Andrew Allen.**

- They approved three new organizations for 170-day licenses, as well as a one-year, a two-year, and a three-year license.
- Your Life Iowa is a resource for the community. 988 was rolled out as a hotline for mental health in 2017. It was originally funded at \$200 thousand a year, it's now \$1.5 million. The contract runs out at the end of the year, they will re-examine the service and decide to extend or not.
- They would like to have the most up-to-date information, for community members, through Your Life Iowa. Sometimes it is directing them to a provider or a facility currently.

Director's Report

Presented by **Sarah Ekstrand, HHS Chief of Staff**

Noteworthy Activities:

- Director Garcia was confirmed as the first Director of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, by the Iowa Senate, 48-1.
- Director Garcia led a team of Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), Iowa Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and other HHS staff on a tour of the Glenwood Resource Center (GRC) to discuss campus use after the closure of GRC.
- Director Garcia presented at ISU's Leadership Academy: Leading Change, virtually.
- On Mar. 15, Director Garcia and the HHS leadership team toured the Dallas County Hospital and met with Dallas County Hospital Leadership to discuss Behavioral Health challenges they are experiencing.
- Director Garcia spoke at the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) Spring Conference on Mar. 14 on the HHS Behavioral Health Alignment initiative and innovation and excellence in health and human service delivery.

Medicaid:

- Medicaid is preparing for the annual open choice and enrollment period. Letters are being mailed to 400,000 Medicaid households in April advising them of their choice of health and dental plans.

State-Operated Specialty Care:

- GRC is hiring a Transition Specialist to assist in oversight of transitions for a successful closure.

Behavioral Health:

- The Behavioral Health team finalized and submitted Iowa's application for a Medicaid demonstration project for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). Nine Iowa providers met the threshold of provisional certification. Iowa HHS Community Access and Eligibility (CAE) and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Leadership have been identifying and implementing efficiencies to our partnership.

Aging and Disability Services:

- The [Nutrition & Aging Resource Center](#) (ADRC) published over 100 resources this past year for nationwide use and published a brand-new instructional campus on aging nutrition in partnership with Iowa State University.

Council had discussion around Cesarean use:

- One goal with AIM bundles is to work with birthing hospitals, create guidelines for when a C-section is needed, and reached alignment with the guidelines.
- Prenatal care for mothers can be a cultural issue. Some prefer to deliver at home, some with midwives. HHS is working to develop best practices for education that is specifically aimed toward foreign language speakers.
- Council asked for data around women who present at hospital to give birth without having prenatal care.

State Medical Director's Report:

Presented by **State Medical Director, Dr. Robert Kruse**

Measles Update

- As of April 4, 2024, a total of 113 measles cases were reported by 18 jurisdictions for the year 2024 thus far including Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York City, New York State, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.
- There have been 7 outbreaks, which are defined as, 3 or more related cases, reported in 2024, and 73% of cases (83 of 113) are outbreak-associated.
- For comparison, 4 outbreaks were reported during 2023 and 48% of cases (28 of 58) were outbreak-associated.
- Iowa currently has had no cases in 2024 with the last case here in Iowa reported in 2019.
- In mid-March, several bureaus in the Division of Public Health along with the State Hygienic Lab had a joint presentation on Measles to local public health agencies and infection preventionists in our health care systems.
- There were 449 participants.
- The goals of the presentation were to:
 - Identify the clinical presentation of measles.
 - Diagnose measles infection with appropriate laboratory diagnostics.
 - Discuss MMR vaccination schedule.
 - Implement measles prevention and public health control strategies.
- We have also posted, through our Health Alert Network a toolkit, information and resources for local public health agencies.
- We will continue to monitor and provide education and awareness with recommendations to check with your healthcare provider to stay up to date with your vaccines.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- A farm worker on a commercial dairy farm in Texas developed conjunctivitis on approximately March 27, 2024, and subsequently tested positive for HPAI A(H5N1) virus infection.
- HPAI A(H5N1) viruses have been reported in the area's dairy cattle and wild birds. There have been no previous reports of the spread of HPAI viruses from cows to humans.
- Currently, HPAI A(H5N1) viruses are circulating among wild birds in the United States, with associated outbreaks among poultry and backyard flocks and sporadic infections in mammals.
- Since March 2022, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) has notified Iowa HHS of over 50 HPAI identifications in poultry operations across the state.
- The current risk that these viruses pose to the public in the US including Iowa remains low.
- The designation of some avian viruses as highly pathogenic refers to the potential severity and mortality in the birds and does not indicate the severity of illness among humans.
- The FDA does not currently have concerns about the safety or availability of pasteurized milk products nationwide. Pasteurization has continually proven to inactivate bacteria

and viruses, like influenza viruses, in milk and is required for any milk entering interstate commerce.

- Iowa HHS continues to work with CDC, IDALS, USDA and FDA to monitor people exposed to animals infected with HPAI A(H5N1) viruses. This includes testing specimens and animals for any changes to the influenza virus that would change the risk to human health.

Vote to adopt rule chapters with effective dates of July 1, 2024

Cassie Tracy and Joe Campos, Compliance Division (batched for April, May, and June.)

- **641—7:** Immunization and Immunization Education (for those trying to enroll in preschool, school, daycare, etc.) certificate of immunization to be notarized (for vaccine exemption) removed from the rule. Shooting for July 1st.

A motion was made by Dr. Macfarlane to approve and seconded by Sandra McGrath.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

- **641—24:** Private Well Testing, Reconstruction, and Plugging—Grants to Counties **Administering grants to county for testing private wells and plugging unused wells.** No changes were needed. Just a reduction of verbiage used.

A motion was made by Sam Wallace to approve and seconded by Jack Willey.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- **641—95 and 99:** Adopted Adult Birth Certificate
Certificate of live birth after adoption, adopted adults can add omitted parents to their birth certificate.

A motion was made by Dr. Macfarlane to approve and seconded by Sandra McGrath.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

- **641—177:** Health Data (this was a full red tape review)
Sets parameters for what providers can work with HHS.

A motion was made by Jack Willey to approve and seconded by Sam Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

- Uniform rules
Legacy departments moving into HHS centralizing the rules and procedures.

A motion was made by Dr. Macfarlane to approve and seconded by Sam Wallace.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing Rule Making
Ashleigh Hackel, General Counsel, Administration Division

Adopted Filing – Chapter 51, “Hospitals”

- The Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing has before the Council the double barrel adopted filing for chapter 51, “Hospitals.”

- The purpose of this rulemaking is to repromulgate 481 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 51, “Hospitals,” in response to 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 75 and the red tape set forth in Executive Order 10.
- Pursuant to Senate File 75, the department is required to adopt rules to establish minimum standards for the licensure of rural emergency hospitals consistent with federal standards.
- The Council reviewed the double barrel Notice of Intended Action and Adopted and Filed Emergency rulemaking documents at its meeting in January.
- The Department received one public comment on the Notice of Intended Action on behalf of the Iowa Society of Anesthesiologists. The commenter requested retention of the words “and with the approval of” in Rule 51.19(1), which requires written policies and procedures governing anesthesia services to be developed and implemented in consultation with the hospital's medical staff. That previously deleted language has been restored. No other changes have been made from the Notice.

A motion was made by Andrew Allen to approve and seconded by Jack Willey.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Adopted Filing – Chapter 49, “Ambulatory Surgical Centers”

- This rulemaking promulgates new Chapter 49, “Ambulatory Surgical Centers,” and implements Iowa Code chapter 135R as enacted by 2023 Iowa Acts, Senate File 75, and as amended by 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2160.
- The related Notice of Intended Action was reviewed by the Council at its meeting in February. No public comments were received on the Noticed rules and the only changes made are incorporate changes required by 2024 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2160, which was signed into law yesterday. Such changes include minor revisions to subrule 49.2(2) regarding the applicability of certificate of need, and revisions to subrules 49.3(1) and 49.4(1) to incorporate legislative amendments related to accrediting organizations.

A motion was made by Sam Wallace to approve and seconded by Jack Willey.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

Behavioral Health Service System Update

Marissa Eyanson, Division Director of Behavioral Health

[HHS System Alignment | Health & Human Services \(iowa.gov\)](#)

The System Alignment Bill is being well received, reorganization and rebuilding of a Behavioral Health system.

- Working in Behavioral Health and Aging spaces, to further clarify and help make sense of what services there are and how to get to them.
- Bringing substance abuse issues into the BH division helps to create a comprehensive system.
- Making sure to deliver consistent services across the state. Historically this was funded by the county (like county homes) that is no longer the process. The new model and systems will give everyone the same access.
- This change will organize resources, reduce administrative burden, and invest in prevention, treatment, and recovery. (Marissa shared timeline.)
- We have submitted our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) application. The next step is to start doing the work, and document how the model works, and its effectiveness.

- Providers will not be certified until HHS is fully ready.
- CCBHC will ensure anyone can receive the same quality of care.
- The model will enhance funding and 9 core functions they cover. Focused on treatment, outpatient, all ages, all diagnosis, and regardless of funds.
- Focusing on motivational needs, medications, counseling, substance abuse treatment, tobacco treatment, and weight management. Connecting to primary care and working with their primary physician.
- With integrating care there is still a need to maintain lines of specializations. Looking deeply to the process to be sure both can be done.
- For ease of communication, the data system integration, Iowa Behavioral Health System (IBHRS) will be the sole place for reporting.

Zach Rhein, Division Director of Aging and Disability Services

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) expansion (presentation attached)

- Building a network based on the new law, they are ready to start the process of identifying what services are needed in the ADRC model. Creating offices that are co-location partners, for ease of the patients.
- Behavioral Health District changes will influence the build. They will look at the feedback on maps.
- Funding will not be given to districts; it will go out as services are used and needed. It can even be home office rather than onsite and it is open for patients to go wherever they want.
- Behavioral Health Recovery can be whatever the patient might need to live a full life. After care, peers, recovery community centers and community houses. For those who need support to keep their own overall wellness. This could help prevent the need for sick care.
- Treatment should be person centered (planning, options, and counseling) find their goals and set a pathway, then check in on their status. This would include application assistance, triage, and community resources as well.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Welcome Polly Roll and Alex Murphy.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sam Wallace and seconded by Jack Willey to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Laura Myers
Council Secretary