

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin	June Klein-Bacon	Dr. Kenneth Wayne
Sarah Berndt	Kathy Norris	
Diane Brecht	Jack Seward, Jr.	
Sue Gehling	Terri Steinke	

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Dettmann	Sen. Jeff Edler
Mike Fidgeon	Rep. Megan Srinivas
Don Kass	
Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Jacob Appel	Patti Manna
Theresa Armstrong	Devon McClurken
Sarah Berndt	Dawn Mentzer
Teresa Bomhoff	Vicki Mueller
Tom Brown	Cheryl Plank
Marissa Eyanson	Libby Reekers
Maggie Ferguson	Chelsey Scanlan
Dylan Keller	Flora A. Schmidt
Lydia Olson-Kelley	Jayne Wagner
Todd Lange	Gano Whetstone
Adrienne LaToure	Elizabeth Wol

Materials Referenced:

MHDS Commission April 18 2024 Meeting Minutes DRAFT
BH Alignment - implementation overview - 5.13.2024
Commission Planning Table 2024

Welcome and Introductions

Diane Brecht, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:31am and led introductions. Quorum was established with 10 voting members attending virtually. Diane reviewed conflicts of interest and informed the Commissioners to disclose any conflicts of interest on voting items.

***Review and Vote on Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Diane Brecht inquired if any Commission members had questions or changes to the April 18th, 2024, meeting minutes. Hearing none, Diane entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Jack Seward motioned to approve and was seconded by Sue Gehling.

There was no additional discussion by the Commissioners. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Behavioral Health Alignment

Marissa Eyanson, Director of Behavioral Health, reviewed the Behavioral Health (BH) system alignment timeline that has been developed by Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) in response to the passing of HF 2673, a bill that aligns Iowa's mental health and substance use regions into unified behavioral health districts to improve outcomes for Iowans.

The BH system alignment timeline will include exploration, installation, initial implementation, and full implementation phases, which may overlap.

The exploration phase will occur from the present until December 2024 and include action items such as drafting and publishing a transformation plan, launching town halls and roundtable conversations, and finalizing a district map. HHS will outline all current services and service requirements, procure for behavioral health Administrative Service Organizations (ASO), draft administrative rules, identify staffing needs, identify services and contracts, plan for care continuity and develop a BH dashboard.

The installation phase begins by January 1, 2025, and will include developing district websites, providing training, planning for cost allocation, establishing ASO governance, and reporting on progress. HHS will execute ASO contracts and establishing Thrive Iowa, a program to immediately connect Iowans in need to resources.

The initial implementation phase will begin by July 1, 2025, and include technical assistance and training, initial implementation of monitoring and reporting, and establishing a statewide Behavioral Health planning cadence.

The full implementation phase will begin July 1, 2026, and will include developing fidelity monitoring, implementing licensure, certification, and accreditation alignment, establishing financial auditing, refining outcomes, and reporting, and ensuring there are connections with the future HHS system development.

There was opportunity for discussion. The commission raised questions about the funding, how stakeholder input was going to be gathered, and how the Commission could continue with sharing feedback. The commission expressed interest in participating in stakeholder groups to provide feedback, asking questions on the funding on services and the ways that workforce barriers would be addressed, and the structure of the ASO's and Advisory Councils.

Future of MHDS Commission

Marissa Eyanson, Director of Behavioral Health, shared that with the signing of the Behavioral Health bill, the MHDS Commission will be sunset on July 1, 2025, and opened a discussion on the role of the Commission over the next year. When asked about what a successful feedback loop with HHS would look like, the Commission indicated they would like to be involved in

townhalls and local advisory councils. The Commission encouraged HHS to ensure the responses to feedback are known to pertinent stakeholders. The Commission would like HHS to evaluate the seats on the Iowa HHS Council table to ensure representation for all Iowans, including those with lived experience. The Commission would like to see the participants on the local and state level advisory councils, as well as the HHS Council, have a diversity of representation that is regularly updated. The Commission would like to see systems created that both encourage and require providers to communicate and collaborate through data sharing. The Commission would like to see a requirement to screen for brain injury.

There was discussion regarding the responsibilities of the Commission in the next year, including reporting requirements. HHS clarified that reporting requirements for the Commission would remain intact in the next year, with encouragement to take into consideration the changes that will be occurring due to the passing of the BH bill.

Recognition of Outgoing Commission Member

Diane Brecht recognized Teresa Daubitz who has resigned from the MHDS Commission.

Commission Planning Calendar

There was a discussion on future planning with the Commission. The Commission Planning table with timelines was reviewed and committees were formed.

The Legislative Priorities Committee will include Sue Gehling, June Klein-Bacon, Ken Wayne, and Diane Brecht. The Regional Services Committee will include Jack Seward. Mental Health Institute (MHI) and State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Committee will include Betsy Akin and Kathy Norris. The Cost Increase & Communications Committee will include Sarah Berndt, Jack Seward, Jr., and Diane Brecht and will begin meeting in June 2024.

Planning for Future Meetings/Additional Discussion

There was no additional discussion.

Public Comment

There was an opportunity for public comment. Tom Brown encouraged HHS to require brain injury screening in the system.

Todd Lange shared that the Iowa Peer workforce collaborative has published a statewide survey for peer support workers and shared a link to the survey.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Manna

