



Transition Plan for the Behavioral Health Service System Alignment

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Health and
Human Services

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Overview

On May 15, 2024, Governor Reynolds signed HF2673 to implement a new Behavioral Health Service System for Iowa beginning on July 1, 2025. This transition plan provides information about the tasks the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) will undertake to assure the successful establishment of the new behavioral health service system, the transition of mental health services from mental health and disability services regions to the Behavioral Health Service System, and the transfer of disability services from to the Division of Aging and Disability Services at HHS. This plan will be updated quarterly.

The Behavioral Health Service System supports a statewide system of prevention, education, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, and crisis services related to mental health and addictive disorders. The transfer of disability services to the Division of Aging and Disability Services is a key component of the development of the new Behavioral Health Service System.

Organizational Structure of the Behavioral Health Service System

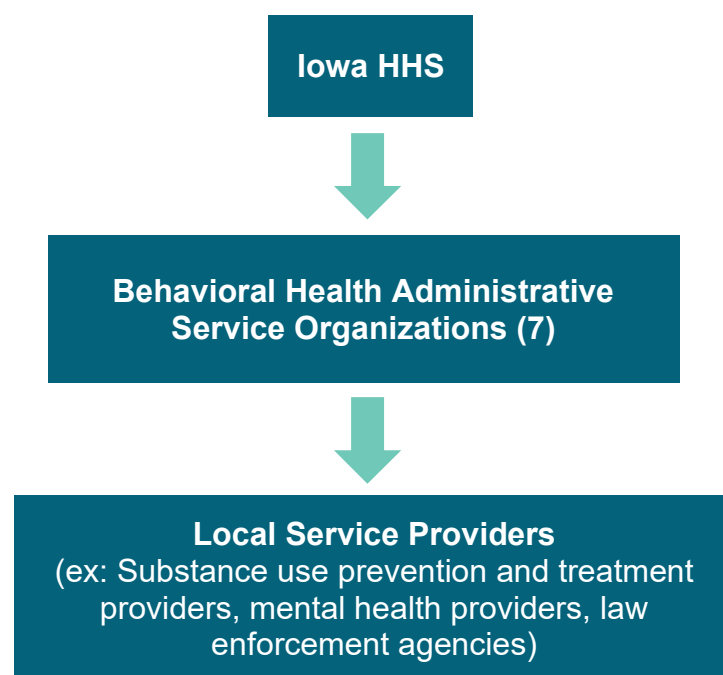
The structure for the behavioral health service system includes the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS), behavioral health administrative services organizations (BH ASOs) serving as lead entities, and local providers as a shared responsibility model.

Iowa HHS will:

- Establish service system districts;
- Develop the service system state plan and approve district plans;
- Administer funding to BH ASOs;
- Develop service definitions and standards, reporting requirements, and performance outcomes;
- Provide training and technical assistance to BH ASOs; and
- Provide activities as indicated by the service system state plan.

Through their contracts with HHS, BH ASOs will:

- Develop and implement a district-wide plan to ensure adequate service provision in every county within the district;
- Contract with local providers;
- Provide training and technical assistance to contracted local providers;
- Ensure service quality and performance outcomes;
- Provide activities and services as indicated by the district plan, as appropriate;
- Collaborate with HHS and other district lead entities for the service system; and
- Reports progress and outcomes to HHS.



BH ASOs will contract with local providers to provide activities and services with each district. Local providers will:

- Contract with a BH ASO(s);
- Provide activities and services according to the BH district plan;
- Collaborate with the ASO and other local providers in the district to ensure service provision in every county within the district; and
- Report progress and outcome data to the BH district ASO.

Transition Funding

Iowa HHS will develop guidance, for mental health and disability services regions and counties, for the following:

- Transferring all unencumbered and unobligated moneys remaining in a mental health and disability services region's combined account (pursuant to section 225C.58, subsection 1) to the treasurer of state for deposit into the behavioral health fund (as established in section 225A.7).
- Transferring all unencumbered and unobligated moneys remaining in a mental health and disability services fund (pursuant to section 225C.58, subsection 1) to the treasurer of state for deposit into the behavioral health fund (as established in section 225A.7).

This work has not yet begun. Progress toward meeting these tasks will be provided in future transition plan updates.

Transition activities for HHS are being funded as follows:

















- \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the mental health and disability services regional incentive fund to support staffing needs to assess current practices, research and design future state activities, and implement future state and transition activities.
- \$645,179 is appropriated from the mental health and disability services regional service fund to establish a data repository.

Ensuring Service Provision for Iowans

Starting July 1, 2025, Iowans will be able to receive services at the location of their choice -- the behavioral district of their residence will not affect where they can receive services. Upon selection of local providers by BH ASOs, Iowa HHS will collaborate with BH ASOs to develop communications about what services are available, who is eligible to receive services, and where services are located. In the event that service delivery sites change locations, Iowa HHS will work with BH ASOs to develop a plan to assist with the transition of service delivery from the current locations to the new locations. This plan would also include how those changes will be communicated to current clients and the public.

Transition Tasks

This plan outlines tasks necessary to establish the state behavioral health service system.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM TASKS		
 Complete	 In Progress	 In the pipeline
TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1, 2024		
	Participate in systems development discussions to further design the Behavioral Health Service System	
	Hold public comment sessions to receive feedback about draft behavioral health district maps	
	Compile draft behavioral health district map feedback	
	Review map feedback and district recommendations	
	Designate Behavioral Health districts	
TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024		
	Define roles and responsibilities for each system level (HHS, Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BH ASOs), local providers)	
	Develop BH ASOs scope of work and outcomes; requirements (Advisory Councils, data collection, use, and sharing, information technology (IT) and security, operations, and contracting); and performance measures	
	Develop BH ASO request for proposal and notice of award documents	
	Post BH ASO request for proposal	
TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 31, 2024		
	Develop minimum access standards	
	Draft administrative rules to support Chapter 225A	
	Review Behavioral Health ASO request for proposals	
	Designate and notify Behavioral Health ASOs	

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM TASKS



Complete



In Progress



In the pipeline

TO BE COMPLETED **BY JUNE 30, 2025**



Identify contracts that will be impacted by mental health and disability services being transferred to the state behavioral health service system



Develop the Behavioral Health Service System State Plan to include input from stakeholders



Develop standards and operational policies and procedures for HHS and BH ASOs (financial, contracting, service provision, data collection, reporting, auditing, monitoring, evaluation, and providing technical assistance)



Plan for and establish the Behavioral Health central data repository



Develop funding methodologies (allocation and distribution)



Develop and enter into contracts for state-level activities and services



Determine client eligibility requirements



Develop methods to ensure individuals who are eligible for behavioral health services receive an uninterrupted continuum of care



Identify workforce development needs



Develop and share training for external awardees/contractors and internal HHS staff



Establish technical and clinical guidance and support



Determine processes for claiming and reimbursement



Collaborate with the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (Iowa DIAL) to make recommendations to the general assembly regarding accreditation, certification, and licensure



Develop guidance for transferring funds from the mental health and disability services regions to the treasurer of state for deposit into the behavioral health fund

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM TASKS



Complete



In Progress



In the pipeline

TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 30, 2025



Develop minimum accreditation standards for the maintenance and operation of community mental health



Designate community mental health centers



Develop an evaluation plan for the Behavioral Health Service System

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES SYSTEM TASKS



Complete



In Progress



In the pipeline

TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1, 2024



Participate in systems development discussions to further design the disability services system



Define roles and responsibilities for the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Lead Entity



Develop ADRC Lead Entity scope of work and outcomes; requirements (data collection, use, and sharing, information technology (IT) and security, operations, and contracting); and performance measures



Develop ADRC Lead Entity request for proposal and contracting documents



Post ADRC Lead Entity request for proposal

TO BE COMPLETED BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



Define roles and responsibilities for each system level (HHS, lead entity (Disability Services Access Points), local provider) for Disability Services



Develop Disability Services Access Points scope of work and outcomes; requirements (Advisory Councils, data collection, use, and sharing, information technology (IT) and security, operations, and contracting); and performance measures



Develop funding methodologies (allocation and distribution)



Develop standards and operational policies and procedures for HHS, Disability Services Access Points, and the ADRC Lead Entity (financial, contracting, service provision, data collection, reporting, auditing, monitoring, evaluation, and providing technical assistance)

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES SYSTEM TASKS



Complete



In Progress



In the pipeline

TO BE COMPLETED **BY** SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



Develop minimum access standards



Develop Disability Services Access Points request for proposal and contracting documents



Identify if additional statutory changes are needed for the ADRC system or the Disability Services system



Draft administrative rule changes or additions to support Chapter 231



Post Disability Services Access Points request for proposal

TO BE COMPLETED **BY** DECEMBER 31, 2024



Determine client eligibility requirements



Develop methods to ensure individuals who are eligible for disability services receive an uninterrupted continuum of care



Determine processes for claiming and reimbursement



Identify workforce development needs



Review Disability Services Access Points request for proposals



Issue notices of award to Disability Services Access Points

TO BE COMPLETED **BY** JUNE 30, 2025



Develop and share training for external awardees/contractors and internal HHS staff



Develop an evaluation plan for the Aging and Disability Services System

Tasks Requiring Completion After July 1, 2025

Iowa HHS will continue to assess and evaluate the implementation and operations of the behavioral health service system. Partner and stakeholder feedback will continue to be vital to ensure the success of this system in its ability to serve Iowans.

Iowa HHS, through the work of department staff across multiple divisions, will continue to plan for and implement activities necessary to assure the successful establishment of the behavioral health service system and the transfer of disability services to the Division of Aging and Disability Services. Partner and stakeholder feedback will continue to be vital to ensure the success of the two systems and their abilities to serve Iowans. All newly identified, additional tasks that will require completion after July 1, 2025, will be included in subsequent quarterly reports.

