

**JOINT MEETING**  
**IOWA INTEGRATED HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (I-PAC)**  
**MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITIES SERVICES (MHDS) COMMISSION**  
**May 15, 2024**  
**12:30 pm to 2:30 pm**  
**Zoom**

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**I-PAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Teresa Bomhoff	Megan Marsh
Rachel Cecil	Katie McBurney
Sen. Claire Celsi	Mary McKinnell
Jennifer Day	Cayleen Mesecher
Linda Dettmann	Todd Noack
Jim Donoghue	Brad Richardson
Kyra Hawley	Jen Riley
Theresa Henderson	Kristin Roof
Michael Kaufmann	Edward Wollner
Rep. Bob Kressig	Patricia Whitmarsh
Todd Lange	Joel Wulf

**I-PAC MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jessica Goltz	Hannah Olson
Jen Gomez	Brianna Steffe
Lorien Harker	Dr. Shaad Swim
Vienna Hoang	Monica Van Horn
Randy Hoover	Sen. Jeff Edler
Christina Maulsby	

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin	Rep. Bob Kressig
Sarah Berndt	Kathy Norris
Diane Brecht	Jack Seward, Jr.
Michael Fidgeon	Rep. Megan Srinivas
Sue Gehling	Terri Steinke
June Klein-Bacon	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Dr. Ken Wayne	

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Linda Dettmann	Don Kass
Teresa Daubitz	Edward Wollner
Sen. Jeff Edler	

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Jacob Appel  
Theresa Armstrong  
Tami Gilliland  
Chris Hoffman

Charlene Joens  
Torie Keith  
Dylan Keller  
Brenna Koedam  
Melissa Loehr  
Brooke Lovelace

Patti Manna  
Kellee McCrory  
Rep. Ann Meyer  
Denise Rathman  
Flora Schmidt  
Ryenne Wood

**Materials Referenced:**

*2024 summary of I-PAC*

*BH Alignment - implementation overview - 5.13.2024*

*MHDS\_IDD Presentation May 2024*

**Introductions – I-PAC, MHDS Commission, and DD Council**

Teresa Bomhoff led a roll call of I-PAC and MHDS Commission members as well as the representative from the Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and requested that members introduce themselves and state their position on the Commission or Council.

**Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council (I-PAC) Overview and Update**

Teresa Bomhoff shared an overview of I-PAC and its activities. She noted that the Council name was changed to “Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council” on March 20 after SAMHSA training sessions and a series of strategic planning sessions.

Teresa Bomhoff reviewed the purpose of I-PAC, as well as the mission, vision, and organizational development. Lastly, she reviewed the current membership of I-PAC, which includes 4 vacancies. The I-PAC

**MHDS Commission Overview and Update**

Diane Brecht reviewed current work of the MHDS Commission including hearing from and providing input to HHS, approving Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) designations in the state, and approving CMHC Regional policies and procedures amendments. Reports generated included a Cost Increase Letter, Managed Care Executive Summary, and Annual Report.

**Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council Overview and Update**

Brooke Lovelace, Executive Director, Iowa DD Council shared a presentation on the DD Council. Brooke reviewed the purpose of the DD Council. She reviewed the Developmental Disability (DD) Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, which established a set of programs to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities through capacity building and systems change, advocacy and the enforcement and protection of civil rights. Brooke noted that nationally DD Councils in each state, including Iowa, act in tandem with their state University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and the state Protection and Advocacy organization. She shared resources for civic and political participation for people with disabilities and their family members.

**Children’s System State Board Update**

Sue Gehling reported that the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board met on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. At this meeting, there were Department of Education (DE) updates on Therapeutic Classrooms, the Chronic Absenteeism workgroup, the Conditions for Learning workgroup, and

State Board of Education goals and outcomes. There were Iowa Health and Human Services HHS updates Behavioral Health System Alignment, Psychiatric Medical Institutes for Children (PMIC) rate reimbursements, Medicaid enhancements, and the introduction of Thrive Iowa. She noted that Division XIII of SF2385 sunsets the Children's Behavioral Health State Board effective 7/1/2024.

### **HHS/BHDS Update**

Theresa Armstrong, Iowa HHS, reviewed the Behavioral Health (BH) system alignment timeline that has been developed by HHS in response to the passing of HF 2673, a bill that aligns Iowa's 32 mental health and substance use regions into 7 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.

### **Legislative Panel Discussion**

The legislative panel consisted of Sen. Claire Celsi, Rep. Bob Kressig, Rep. Ann Meyer, Rep. Megan Srinivas, Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott. Each Legislator spoke briefly on the 2024 legislative session. The Legislators all expressed their gratitude for the hard work of the boards and commissions. There was not an opportunity for discussion due to time constraints.

Sen. Claire Celsi expressed concern about the sunset of the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board. She expressed that the Behavioral Health System Alignment is being launched without a comprehensive plan in place.

Rep. Bob Kressig expressed concern that the corrective system is one of the primary providers of mental health services in the state of Iowa, which is costly to taxpayers and ineffective.

Rep. Ann Meyer shared that the Behavioral Health Alignment was broad work with tremendous stakeholder engagement and expressed hopefulness for the effectiveness of the bill in equalizing treatment options between rural and urban areas. She made positive statements regarding the PMIC enhanced rate for children with complex needs and the introduction of Thrive Iowa.

Rep. Megan Srinivas expressed concern with session and feels the environment set up by legislation discourages new workforce into the state, that the opioid settlement fund legislation is underutilized, and that mental health reimbursement compared to other health care reimbursement is low.

Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott expressed support of the Behavioral Health Alignment while stating concern for the potential for individuals to fall through the cracks in the system during the period of change. She would like to see more money and resources directed towards Medicaid expansion of maternal health and childcare assistance and reconsideration of the maps to ensure support of rural individuals and providers.

### **Public Comment**

There was an opportunity for public comment,

Todd Noack expressed concern that recovery agencies are giving provided the lowest reimbursement rate for peer support workforce.

June Klein Bacon would like to see the BH redesign process address the needs of individuals with brain injuries.

Todd Lange would like the BH redesign process involve the inclusion of peer support specialists and peer run organizations.

Sen. Claire Celsi expressed concern that HHS is giving unnecessary tax breaks.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Manna.