



Behavioral Health Transformation

Background

On May 15, 2024, House File 2673 was signed into law. Under this legislation, Iowa will combine the work and funding for mental health and addictive disorders into one Behavioral Health Service System through seven new behavioral health districts effective July 1, 2025.

Why is it important?

- ▶ Ensures that Iowans have access to person-centered care no matter where they live in the state.
- ▶ Reduces system redundancies by linking Federal, State and local governance and authority.
- ▶ Strengthens important system connections to Medicaid, Public Health and Child Protective Services, while gathering meaningful feedback from Iowans to inform system planning.
- ▶ Eliminates administrative red tape and duplicative efforts.
- ▶ Links funding to measurable system outcomes.
- ▶ Develops transparent data reporting about progress and needs.

Behavioral Health Service Statewide System Plan

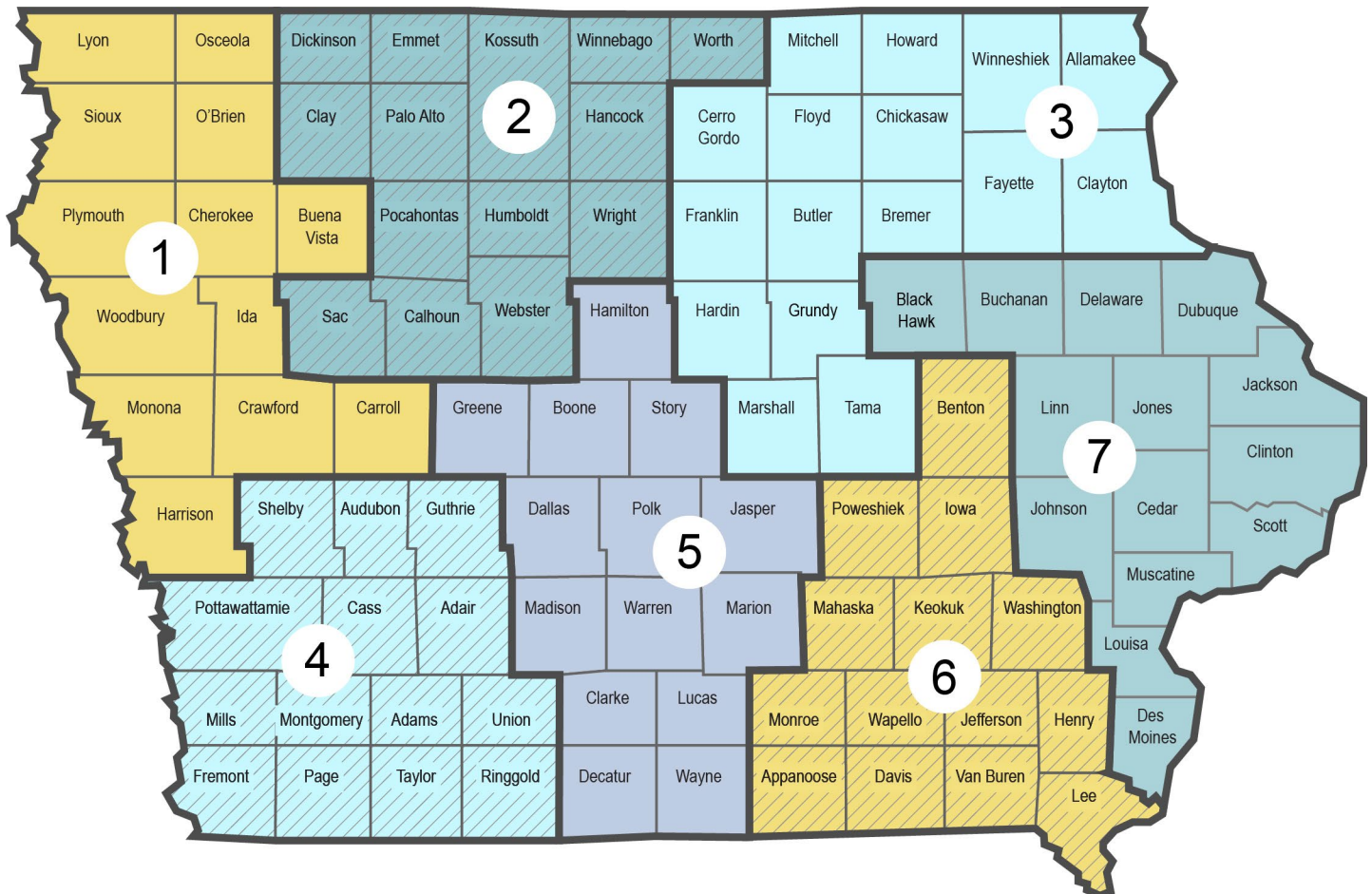
Iowa HHS worked with behavioral health stakeholders this past fall to develop the 2025-2027 plan. Meetings were held in each of the seven behavioral health districts with approximately **200** stakeholders in attendance to review strategies and tactics, provide feedback and measure access to health care services.

Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BH-ASO)

The ASO is responsible for establishing a network of providers and ensuring that all Iowans have clear, consistent pathways to care and support they need. Alongside local leaders, school officials, law enforcement, and public health providers, the ASO will develop and lead a unified operational approach for each district to meet distinct communities and needs and deliver Behavioral Health Safety Net Services for uninsured, underinsured, at-risk populations and/or at-risk individuals.

Safety net services will include:

- ▶ Behavioral health prevention, outreach and education activities
- ▶ A comprehensive continuum of behavioral health crisis services
- ▶ Mental health outpatient treatment services
- ▶ Substance-use disorder outpatient treatment services
- ▶ Mental health and substance-use high-intensity outpatient treatment services
- ▶ Hospital alternatives including subacute services and crisis respite services.
- ▶ Mental health and substance-use inpatient and residential treatment services
- ▶ Behavioral Health Services for justice-involved individuals



Continuity of Care & Implementation

Iowa's behavioral health service providers are part of an important change that will improve care by connecting behavioral and physical health services, using proven practices more regularly, and making it easier to access high-quality care.

Iowans can expect:

- ▶ Consistent access to health and human services.
- ▶ Funding is utilized more effectively to achieve outcomes.
- ▶ Access to a well-coordinated system of behavioral health services across the state no matter where they live.

Providers can expect:

- ▶ Consolidated and streamlined contracting and administration.
- ▶ A consistent payment system for the reimbursement of services.
- ▶ District-Level System Coordination and continuity of care.

WINTER/SPRING 2025

Transition

Iowa HHS, BH-ASOs, and local stakeholders work together to transition from the current mental health and disability services system and addictive disorder service systems to the new Behavioral Health System.

JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

Transition and Implementation

Iowa HHS and BH-ASOs work to ensure continuity of care for Iowans as the new system is implemented. Iowa HHS and BH-ASOs (and local stakeholders) begin implementing the new Behavioral Health Service System Statewide Plan strategies and tactics.

JULY 1, 2026 TO DECEMBER 31, 2027

Implementation

Iowa HHS and BH-ASOs (and local stakeholders) continue implementing the Behavioral Health Service System Statewide Plan strategies and tactics.

The goal is to make sure that people continue receiving essential services without interruptions, and that safety net behavioral health services stay in place. Iowa's current safety net behavioral health providers include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)
- ▶ Integrated Provider Network (IPN)
- ▶ Tobacco Community Partnerships (CP's)
- ▶ Crisis Service Providers
- ▶ Recovery Community Centers (RCCs)
- ▶ Recovery Support Services (RSS) providers
- ▶ State-certified "Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics" (CCBHCs)

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) and Safety Net Providers

What Is a CCBHC?

- ▶ CCBHCs are outpatient behavioral health safety net providers that offer a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services.
- ▶ CCBHCs are required to serve anyone who walks through their doors, *regardless of their age, diagnosis, insurance status or place of residence.*
- ▶ CCBHCs are required to provide or coordinate a set of core services:
 - Crisis mental health services including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention, and crisis stabilization.
 - Outpatient mental health and substance use services, including evidence-based practices.
 - Outpatient clinic primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk.
 - Care coordination.
 - Peer support, Family Peer support, and Peer Recovery coaching.
 - Intensive community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans.

Why CCBHCs?

For Iowans

- ▶ Timely access to high quality, comprehensive, data-driven, evidence-based, person-centered, coordinated, and integrated care.

For providers

- ▶ The benefit for providers for achieving compliance with 113+ CCBHC standards is a Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate for their services, which is a cost-based reimbursement methodology.

For Iowa

- ▶ Network of high functioning behavioral health providers integrated meaningfully with the healthcare and social services delivery systems and the improved outcomes (and lower costs) that come with that network.
- ▶ Participation in the federal demonstration program enables access to enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs) for CCBHC services.
- ▶ **Map to current CCBHCs:** <https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/15147/download?inline>



To learn more about Iowa's Behavioral Health Service System, please visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/initiatives/system-alignment/behavioral-health-service-system>.