MEETING MINUTES

DIVISION	Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid
MEETING TITLE	REACH Implementation Team: Quality Improvement and Assurance Subcommittee
FACILITATOR	Jenny Erdman
DATE	3/26/2025

		TIME	4:00 PM CT
LOCATION	Virtual		

MEETING OBJECTIVES

Implementation Team meetings create the opportunity for key stakeholders to facilitate and support the adherence to the Iowa REACH Initiative Implementation Plan objectives and activities and to provide coordinated oversight and recommendations to ensure the success of the Iowa REACH Initiative.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

- Will Linder
- Laura Leise
- Tiffany Vevera
- Gretchen Hammer
- Marisa Cullnan
- Stacie Snieder
- Richard Whitaker

AGENDA TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION POINTS
Welcome and Introductions	• Iowa HHS welcomed participants.
Quality Plan State Examples	• Mathematica presented examples of key quality improvement activity (QIA) plan components. • Group members discussed the quality plans used in two state programs: Washington's Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe) and Idaho's Youth Empowerment Services (YES). • Group members emphasized the importance of assessing quality using individual and family-level outcomes and cautioned against focusing on metrics related to systems, operations, and procedures.

	• Group members discussed various ways to capture and assess the quality of data for performance measures, specifically the inclusion of a quality measure for service delivery in the least-restrictive environment. Group members supported focusing quality measurement on outcomes for families and people rather than on placement in a specific setting. • Group members expressed that navigating disjointed administrative entities (i.e., MCO, governor's office, care setting, adoption agencies, DHS, etc.) is a barrier to care for families. • Group members discussed the importance of monitoring performance indicators and feedback regularly. • One group member said that in their experience, the CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) tool lacks the sensitivity to determine how a person might function without the services currently in place. • Group members voiced support for using root cause analysis to guide effective quality improvement actions.
General Discussion	• Group members discussed simplifying processes that require a high level of effort from caregivers. Group members supported the idea of improving quality measurement by identifying and removing unnecessary items from assessments. • Group members expressed interest in learning more about tools and measures that other states use to consider their use for REACH. • Group members requested more information about what data is available in Iowa and what is feasible to measure given current data infrastructure.
Public Comment	• None.

VOTES				
ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	MOTION	SECOND	VOTE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A