

Steering Committee Meeting Summary

OCTOBER 29, 2024, 3:00 – 4:30 PM CENTRAL TIME

Attendee List:

Mathematica: Kimberly Aguillard, Amy Wodarek-O'Reilly, Victoria Wible, Maddie Vincent, Megan Wyatt, Daniel Van Sant (Harkin)

Iowa HHS: Christy Casey, Kimberly Grasty, Latisha McGuire, LeAnn Moskowitz, Lisa Cook, Bob Schuleter

Committee members: Kay Marcel, Garret Frey, Shelley Jaspering, Leah Price, Eric Donat, Brooke Lovelace, Ruth Wilson, Araceli Vazquez, Mary Beth O'Neil, Jean Shelton, Moises Castellanos, Jack Mescher, Anne Crotty, Bill Stumpf, Elaine Gartelos

Summary of Meeting Themes:

- Lisa Cook shared that Director Matney will be stepping down from her role as the Director of Iowa Medicaid at the end of October. Lisa shared that Deputy Director Rebecca Curtis will serve as interim director while Iowa HHS conducts a national search to fill this role.
 - Committee members appreciated Director Matney's dedication and support for this work. They expressed disappointment about Director Matney leaving but wished her the best and remain hopeful that progress on the HOME project will continue.
 - Committee members asked for Iowa HHS to share the job posting when it was available. They also asked how long the job search and hiring process might take.
 - The posting is open until November 20, 2024. Lisa shared the job posting page with committee members, as well as Rebecca Curtis's contact email for any questions members have.
 - <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/iowa/jobs/4701596/medicaid-director>
 - rebecca.curtiss@hhs.iowa.gov
- Next, Mathematica walked through the current questions on the Waiver Priority Needs Assessment (WPNA). The WPNA is an optional prescreening tool to check urgent and emergent (new or changing) needs for people on a waiver waitlist. Iowa is already using this WPNA now, this is not a new tool. A person or their caregiver can fill out the WPNA.
 - Committee members asked who qualifies as a "caregiver".
 - Iowa HHS explained that a caregiver is the usual person who provides support.
 - Committee members asked how the assessment affects waitlist prioritization.
 - Iowa HHS clarified that currently people on the waitlist are prioritized based on the number of items on the WPNA they select, then by waiver application date. So, if two people each select the same three criteria, the person with an earlier application date will be higher on the waitlist. Waiver slots are released monthly and are not reserved for urgent cases.
 - Committee members asked how people on the waitlist with emergency needs get supported.
 - Iowa HHS stated that people currently on the waitlist can access [in lieu of services](#) to prevent hospitalization while waiting for a waiver slot.
 - Committee members stressed the need for more providers as a major, cross-cutting issue for the availability of HCBS waiver services once someone receives a waiver slot.

- Next, Mathematica shared an overview of case management milestones and accomplishments in 2024.
 - Committee members asked if people enrolled in waivers will have to change case managers.
 - Iowa HHS explained that some, but not all, people will need to change case managers to achieve the lower ratio. The purpose of the lower ratio is to allow case managers more time to support members.
 - People enrolled on waivers who feel strongly about keeping their current case manager can let their case manager and the Managed Care Organization (MCO) know they'd like to keep working with them.
 - However, some people will need to change case managers to even out caseloads. In these cases, the current case manager should connect members to their new case manager in a warm hand-off.
 - Committee members agreed that the case management milestones are positive steps.
 - Committee members asked for the timeframe for the case manager refresher course.
 - Iowa HHS explained that when case managers are hired, they have to complete the certification. Then, they have to complete the refresher training each year.
 - Committee members asked whether Iowa HHS has seen a positive impact since changes to ratios in July.
 - Iowa HHS shared that MCOs' September reporting showed they have hired 10 new case managers so far.
 - Mathematica provided an update on Uniform Assessments. Iowa HHS is considering ways to address lowans' concerns about MCO's ability to provide conflict-free assessments. They are exploring options for making a change to the assessment process, along with other changes to assessments.
 - Committee members asked if there were a process in place for a person to challenge the assessment results/assigned tier.
 - Iowa HHS said that there is a process. People on a waiver should contact their case manager as a first step.
 - The next steering committee meeting will move from the week of Thanksgiving to either the first or second Tuesday in December.
 - Most steering committee members said either date would work. Kimberly will check with members who couldn't attend and reschedule the meeting for the date that works best for most committee members.

Additional Resources:

Link to Iowa Medicaid Director job posting:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/iowa/jobs/4701596/medicaid-director>

Email for Rebecca Curtis, interim Medicaid Director: Rebecca.Curtis@hhs.iowa.gov

Link to [HOME website](#):

- Includes a timeline that shares the work on HOME since 2022
- Steering Committee slides and summaries are toward the bottom of the page.

Link to sign up for the [HOME newsletter](#):

- HHS sends the newsletter every other month. It shares information on the HOME project and a spotlight on our partners, like you!

Link to [Facebook post about HOME FAQs](#):

- Please feel free to share this post with your networks
- There will be more Facebook posts in the future, and we will share those with you.