

**LOCATION: Zoom Meeting**  
**TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

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**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin	Kellee McCrory
Diane Brecht	Kathy Norris
Linda Dettmann	Jack Seward, Jr.
Sue Gehling	Terri Steinke
June Klein-Bacon	Dr. Kenneth Wayne

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sen. Jeff Edler	Rep. Megan Srinivas
Mike Fidgeon	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Jacob Appel	Patti Manna
Theresa Armstrong	Billi Mitchell
Lynee Burken	Katie Peck
Carlyn Crowe	Cheryl Plank
Lori Elam	Libby Reekers
Jan Heidemann	Flora A Schmidt
Charlene Joens	Kim Scorza
Don Kass	Mikki Stier
Todd Lange	Beth Will
Dree LaToure	
Danielle Workman	

**Materials Referenced:**

*MHDS\_Commission January 16, 2025 Meeting\_Minutes\_DRAFT*  
*MHDS Commission Sunset Report 2025 DRAFT 20250217*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Diane Brecht, Chair, called the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Commission meeting to order at 9:32 am and led introductions. Quorum was established with 10 voting members attending virtually. Diane Brecht reviewed conflicts of interest and informed the Commissioners to disclose any conflicts of interest on voting items.

**\*Review and Vote on Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Diane Brecht inquired if any Commission members had questions or changes to the January 16th, 2025, meeting minutes. Hearing none, Diane Brecht entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Betsy Akin motioned to approve and was seconded by Sue Gehling. There was no additional discussion by the Commissioners. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

### **Behavioral Health and Disability Services – Theresa Armstrong**

Theresa Armstrong, Behavioral Health Division, Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS) provided an overview of the changes occurring with the Iowa HHS Behavioral Health and Disability Services.

HHS is working closely with the Behavioral Health-Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO), Iowa Primary Care (Iowa PCA), and the Behavior Health Districts to ensure there is continuity in services and payments during the transition period prior to implementation of the state's redesigned Behavioral Health System. HHS is focusing on ensuring a smooth transition for payment for services, system navigation, and continuing support for safety net providers.

HHS will be determining what system navigation is already in place and Iowa PCA will be hiring additional system navigators with a recognition that these individuals will function differently than service coordinators. Iowa PCA has extended the time for applications to be considered for each of the seven District Advisory Councils and will be gathering information from the MHDS Regions. HHS will continue to support the state's safety net providers such as the Integrated Provider Network (IPN), Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs), Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), and crisis providers.

HHS has published a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet, which will be updated frequently. Monthly town halls will be held to provide information and solicit feedback. The finalized State Plan should be issued at the end of February or beginning of March.

The Aging and Disability Services Division is in the process of transferring management of disability services from the local MHDS Regions to the Division of Aging & Disability Services. Disability Access Points will be named soon.

Updated information on Iowa's Behavioral Health Service System and Disability Service System can be found on the Official State of Iowa Website [Official Website | iowa.gov](https://www.iowa.gov).

### **2025 MHDS Sunset Recommendations Report Discussion**

Diane Brecht led a review of the drafted MHDS Sunset Recommendations Report. The Commissioners agreed that the overall structure and outline of the report was effective. Feedback included recommendations to encourage pouring resources into high need areas and discouraging the development of "one size fits all" mandates and policies. There was a suggestion to encourage an increase in communication between the providers and the individuals served. Diane Brecht outlined the timeline which includes a review of the draft report at the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting and an opportunity to vote and approve the report at the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting.

### **Planning for Future Meetings/Additional Discussion**

There was a discussion on future planning. Diane Brecht let the Commissioners know that the next meeting would be a joint meeting with the Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory

Council (I-PAC) on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with no meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Diane Brecht asked for input into the agenda planning, no suggestions were made.

**Public Comment**

There was an opportunity for public comment with none being offered.

**Adjourn**

Jack Seward motioned to adjourn the meeting; Kellee McCrory seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Manna*