

Meeting Notes

Division: Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid

Meeting Topic: REACH Implementation Team

Facilitator: Jenny Erdman

Date: 6/11/25

Time: 4:00 PM

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

- Addie Kimber
- Anne Starr
- Amy Berg-Theisen
- Anne Crotty
- Nilani Downs
- Dree LaToure
- Jenny Erdman
- Gretchen Hammer
- Kristie Oliver
- Laura Larkin
- William Linder
- Mary Beth O'Neill
- Nikki Thompson
- Jennifer Robertson-Hill
- Stacy Sneider

Agenda Topic and Items

- Behavioral health service system redesign process
 - Last year, Iowa passed legislation to make significant changes to the behavioral health system. The statewide plan was released in April after significant public comment.
 - The statewide plan prioritizes prevention and early intervention, system coordination, and access to behavioral health services.
 - District advisory councils and the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO) have been established. These support connections between state and community programs, and promote shared responsibility between community-based organizations providing support services and local administration entities.
 - Advisory councils all have rural representation
 - State crisis and behavioral health navigation supports are coordinated through Your Life Iowa. System navigators are available 24/7.
 - Participants noted that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) provides training in evidence-based practices to help children grow coping skills. We may have an opportunity to help build this team and other similar teams to enhance prevention. Additionally, these teams may have relationships and experience that can help bolster the new behavioral health system.
 - Participants also noted that responsibility for service provision is changing since the state is now providing services through Medicaid. Previously, services were decentralized to the regional level and people knew the regional decision makers. We should ensure that there are clear roles and accountability for those who need to provide services.
- Committee updates
 - The Consumer Steering Committee is discussing the assessment tool and how to enhance care coordination.
 - The Assessment Tool Subcommittee is working towards a formal recommendation memo.

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- After the memo is submitted, other committees will discuss questions on how the assessment tool should be implemented. These other committees are open to Assessment Tool Subcommittee members.
 - The Services and Providers Subcommittee is comparing how current services align with what is required by the settlement agreement.
 - Participants noted that we should discuss what credentials are required for providers, and whether we need to require specific services or whether provider credentialing would ensure high-quality services.
 - The Communications Subcommittee is providing insight on other groups to connect with and feedback for website updates.
 - The Quality Improvement and Assurance Subcommittee is discussing common elements of a quality plan, and will then pause until September.
 - The Intensive Care Coordination Subcommittee is comparing how current services align with what is required by the settlement agreement, and discussing needs regarding the assessment tool.