

Meeting Notes

Division: Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid

Meeting Topic: REACH Implementation Team: Services and Providers Subcommittee

Facilitator: Carol Mau, HHS

Date: 07/08/2025

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

- Addison Kimber
- Amy Berg-Theisen
- Carol Mau
- David Beeman
- Gretchen Hammer
- Jen Royer
- Kim Hagen
- Nikki Thomson
- Selma Brkic
- William Linder

Agenda Topic and Items

- Introduction
 - Today we will review the findings from Statewide Access and Provider Capacity Assessment (SAPCA).
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- The SAPCA was created as part of the implementation plan for the settlement agreement. For brevity, we have removed sections on adults with IDD and school-based services from this presentation. These materials will be available in the final SAPCA report.
 - Findings
 - Based on claims data, about 46% of Medicaid enrollees access community-based services. There are almost 86,000 youth with an SED diagnosis enrolled in Medicaid, and most of them are accessing subacute mental health and crisis services.
 - Members shared that these numbers seem reasonable, especially given that non-crisis services are not widely available.
 - Members shared that if there were more treatment services, respite may be used less.
 - Members also noted that waiver reimbursement rates are too low to offer treatment services. In particular, it can be hard to hire providers for in-home family therapy at current rates.
 - Members also raised that there is a trend of licensed therapists wanting to provide services in an office and not home settings.
 - Based on a provider survey, Medicaid is the largest payer for youth with SED (83%). Private insurance is still a large payer (32%).
 - Members shared that these percentages seem accurate from who they typically see
 - Overall challenges in the community-based services system
 - Provider capacity is challenged by low rates, staff turnover, low wages and little growth opportunity, and a lack of sufficient staff and staff time
 - Members shared that this issue is consistently shared across providers for home and community services
 - System navigation is challenging
 - Members shared that navigation is challenging due to the varied requirements among MCOs and the many requirements and red tape for Medicaid providers
 - Rurality and transportation to services present another barrier
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- Members shared that the autism evaluation and services should be bolstered, which is supported by the survey
 - Recommendations
 - Members shared that they have been working towards the near-term and long-term goals shared in the SAPCA for a long time and look forward to having data to support them.
 - Discussion
 - None.
 - Public Comment
 - None.
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New Items:

- Mathematica will go back to the SAPCA to review lessons we can learn from peer states
 - For example, members expressed interest in why Nebraska had such a high rating for their home-based services.
- We will also talk about school-based services in the future