

Meeting Notes

Division: Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid

Meeting Topic: Consumer Steering Committee

Facilitator: Dex Walker, HHS

Date: 08/14/2025

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

- Dex Walker
- Gretchen Hammer
- Addie Kimber
- Anne Crotty
- Ryan Adams
- Kristen Aller

Agenda Topic and Discussion

- Assessment Tool
 - HHS provided a brief background on the recommendation of the Children and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment from the Assessment Tool Subcommittee
 - Committee members shared that assessor training will be essential in ensuring that the assessment accomplishes its goals. Specifically, assessors should be trained in relationship maintenance skills, including:

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- Being an ally to families and allowing them to drive the assessment process
 - Acknowledging that the family and youth are the experts in their own needs and strengths
 - Presenting assessment as an opportunity to learn from families instead of independently assigning scores and treatments
 - Members shared that the way an assessment is delivered may be more important than the assessment tool itself. If assessors are not trained in relationship maintenance, there is a large risk that participants lose trust in the REACH process.
 - School-based services
 - Mathematica presented findings related to school-based services from the Services and Providers Capacity Assessment (SAPCA)
 - Committee members supported the recommendations provided in the SAPCA, however they noted that it would be useful to operationalize the recommendations to ensure they can be used with Iowa's limited resources
 - HHS shared that if these elements are required for a well-functioning system, the state could pass mandates and ask for appropriations to fulfill the recommendations
 - Committee members also agreed that teachers and paraprofessionals should not be asked to do an increased level of work. Members suggested that schools could bring in other professionals and create a curriculum to provide additional services within a school-based setting.
 - Committee members noted that a strong partnership between schools and other agencies should include:
 - Strong communication among all partners
 - Strengths-based relationships that allow each partner to provide the best care possible
 - Clearly defined roles that indicate which providers should deliver which services

