

Meeting Notes

Division: Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Medicaid

Meeting Topic: Implementation Team

Facilitator: Jenny Erdman, HHS

Date: 08/13/2025

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

- Jenny Erdman
- Will Linder
- Gretchen Hammer
- Addie Kimber
- Lynn Bell
- Daron Harris
- Richard Whitaker
- Jen Royer
- Nikki Thomson
- Leah Tanner
- Mary Beth O'Neill
- Megan Simpson
- Jamie Edwards
- Amy Berg-Theisen
- Anne Crotty
- Kristie Oliver
- Dree LaToure

Agenda Topic and Discussion

- Subcommittee updates
 - HHS provided updates about the discussions topics of each REACH Subcommittee
 - The Assessment Tool Subcommittee has finalized their recommendation for the state to use the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment
 - HHS will be reaching out to other groups across Iowa to increase engagement with REACH and get feedback. After these meetings, feedback will be brought back to the Implementation Team for further consideration.
- Services and Providers Capacity Assessment (SAPCA)
 - Mathematica shared findings from the SAPCA which have been presented to the Services and Providers Subcommittee and Consumer Steering Committee
 - Members shared additional gaps and challenges for services, including:
 - A lack of family supports
 - Limited funding preventing providers from delivering certain services (for example, peer supports)
 - Difficulty accessing services which holistically treat individuals with multiple conditions
 - Pressures on the crisis service system caused by a lack of preventive and supportive services
 - Cumbersome auditing processes which make providers feel less productive due to the constraints on their time
 - Generally, members noted that BHIS is a useful service but does not go far enough in the types of services that can be provided for families
 - In order to address challenges, members suggested:
 - Additional provider training so providers feel comfortable providing services for those with the most complex needs

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- Supporting after-school programs which help children build skills in a home environment
 - Skill-building opportunities for parents
 - Creating toolkits or conducting outreach that helps other child-involved systems, such as the child welfare system, provide home and community-based services
 - Clear information for providers about billing for different services (for example, billing processes for in-home family therapy are unclear)
 - Streamlined accreditation processes that can allow providers to deliver multiple types of services