



Iowa REACH Communications Subcommittee

Will Linder
Communications Specialist
Iowa Health and Human Services

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Health and
Human Services

Agenda

- REACH engagement updates
- Care pathways
- Public comment

REACH Engagement Updates

Communications Updates

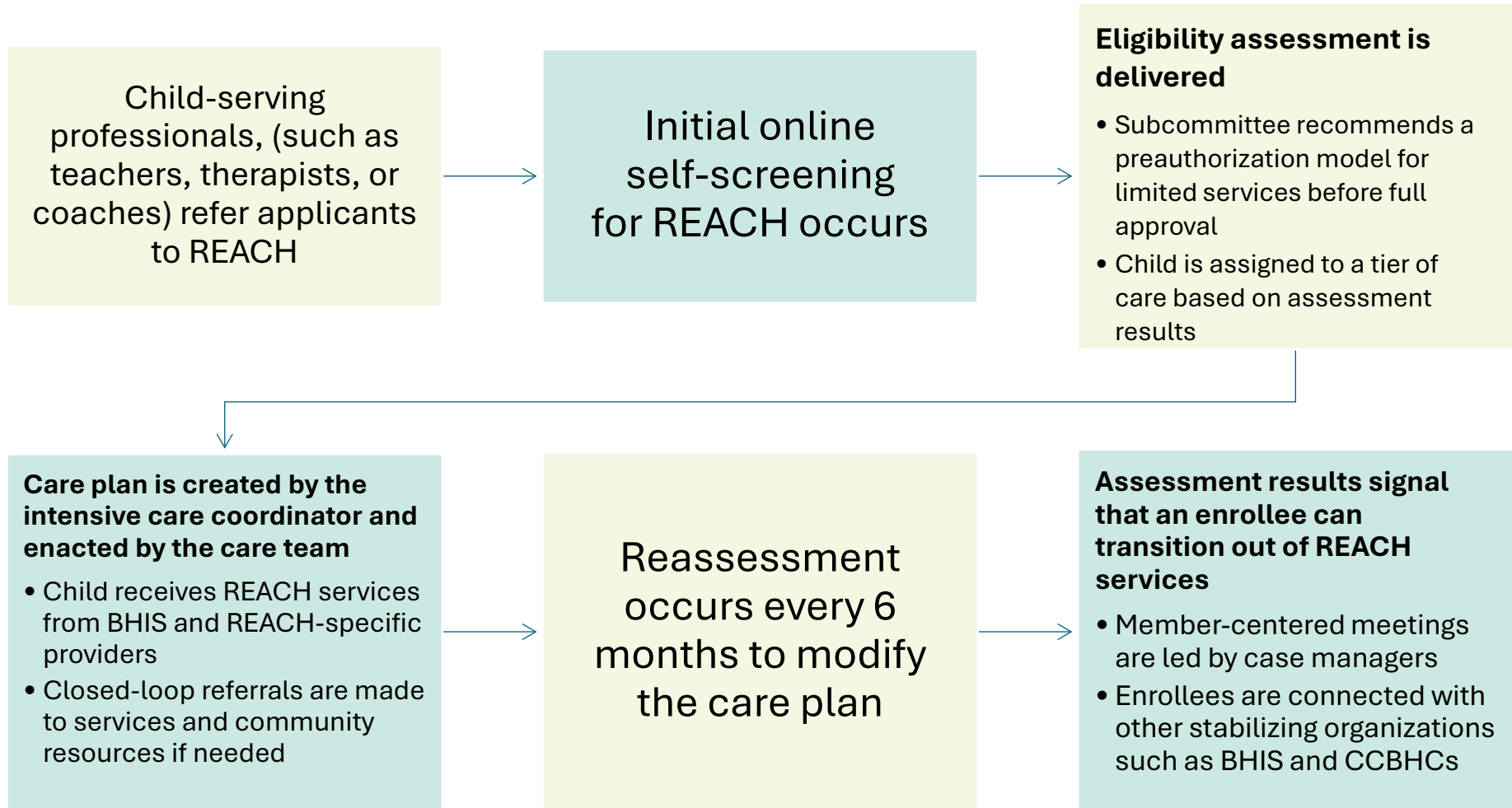
- ▶ **REACH Roadshow presentations continue with strong engagement.**

November meetings include:

- Early Intervention & Support Team meeting
 - DD Council one-on-one with Director Grossman
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- ▶ **The HHS Government Relations team is preparing for the 2026 legislative session**, which begins in January. The team will review HOME and REACH as vital Medicaid programs that require continued funding.

Care Pathways

Pathway to Care



Idaho's Approach

- ▶ Idaho YES, a similar program, has a website with a [Quick Start Guide](#) to services
- ▶ The guide includes a [one pager](#) describing the steps to get started with YES including
 - Who to speak with to connect with services
 - Eligibility requirements
 - Who to call to schedule assessment
 - How to locate services
 - The family's role in care planning and coordinating services
- ▶ There is also a 12-page [YES 101](#) document with more information about
 - What YES involves and principles of care
 - What assessment entails
 - How YES services differ from typical services

Screening and Referral

- ▶ Subcommittees have suggested that child-serving professionals, parents, or youth should be able to refer children directly to REACH
- ▶ This process may include a self-screening at home to indicate eligibility for REACH services.
- ▶ Eligible members are:
 - Under the age of 21
 - Medicaid-eligible
 - Have been determined by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts to have a serious emotional disturbance not attributable to an intellectual or developmental disability
 - Have had an assessment that intensive home and community-based services are needed to correct or ameliorate their condition

Screening and Referral Discussion

- ▶ What pathways should the state use to distribute information about eligibility and screenings so that child serving professionals, families, and youth know how to access referrals?

- ▶ What essential information needs to be on screening and referral communications?
 - Descriptions of REACH eligibility criteria
 - Who to contact for eligibility assessments
 - Other resources if you are not eligible for REACH

Assessment Delivery

- ▶ After referral, an assessment will be used to confirm eligibility for REACH

- ▶ The Assessment Tool Subcommittee has recommended the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) as the uniform assessment tool for REACH
 - Strength-based assessment tool that considers both a person's strengths and needs by rating items on a scale from 0 – 3.
 - Uses input from child/youth, family, and other people involved in the person's life.
 - Considers multiple areas of a child's life including life functioning and risk behaviors

Idaho's Communications on Assessment

- ▶ Idaho YES also uses the CANS, and their member communications specific to assessment include
 - A [website](#) describing what the CANS measures
 - A [three-minute video](#) describing the intent of the assessment

- ▶ These materials include information about
 - What the CANS is and what it measures
 - Why the CANS is necessary
 - How the CANS is different from other assessments

Assessment Discussion

- ▶ **What types of information and materials will families need so they can prepare for assessment?**
 - For example, the consumer steering committee has said that members would benefit from knowing what will happen in assessments and how frequently assessments will occur

- ▶ **What format should information on assessments take?**
 - For example, should providers hand families a pamphlet, or should there be an explainer on the HHS website?

Service Delivery

- ▶ Care coordination services will also be offered, including
 - Assessment delivery
 - Care planning and coordination of the care team
 - Referral to services and community resources
 - Transition services through and out of REACH

- ▶ The Services and Providers Subcommittee has recommended a series of services including
 - Family education
 - Behavior management
 - Individual and family therapy
 - In-home family therapy
 - Evidence-based therapies such as multi-systemic therapy and family functional therapy
 - Family peer supports including group family support

Idaho's Communications on Services

- ▶ Idaho provides information about:
 - The purpose of a care team
 - The elements of a person-centered care plan
- ▶ Specific services are outlined in a [practice manual](#)

Services Discussion

- ▶ **What information will the public need to know about the services available through REACH?**
 - How can we share information about what is available while avoiding unnecessary clinical jargon?
- ▶ **Who should provide information about the supportive and therapeutic services available through REACH?**
 - Should discussions about specific services be led by care coordinators, with knowledge of the family's goals?

Public Comment