

Steering Committee Meeting Summary

OCTOBER 28, 2025, 3:00 – 4:30 PM CENTRAL TIME

Summary of Meeting Themes:

- Mathematica stated that the public comment period for the current waiver amendments ended on September 19. In response to questions received, Iowa HHS released an FAQ document with clarifications.
- Iowa HHS is preparing the Children and Youth (CY) and Adult and Disability (AD) waivers for public comment in December 2025. To give Iowans enough time to respond during the holidays, Iowa HHS will keep the comment period open for six weeks instead of the usual 30 days.
 - Members asked when CMS is expected to respond to the proposed waiver amendments.
 - Iowa HHS explained that CMS typically has 60 days to respond to the amendments, but the process may take longer if CMS requests additional information.
- Based on feedback from Iowa HHS and the steering committee, Iowa HHS has updated the name for individualized budgets to My Service Plan Limit (mySPL).
 - Members appreciated the new terminology. They found the emphasis on "my" and replacement of the word "budget" clearer and easier to understand.
- Mathematica provided a review and update on the assessment work for HOME. The HOME waivers will serve people with different types of disabilities under both the CY and AD waivers. To support this approach, Iowa HHS needs an assessment that accurately measures each member's level of need. Iowa HHS will use a set of tools developed by interRAI. All members on the HOME waivers will answer a core set of questions and may receive additional questions based on their unique needs. Before using the core questions, Iowa HHS will test them for reliability and validity.
 - Members asked for clarification about who qualifies for specific services during service planning.
 - Mathematica explained that this depends on case management and service planning. The core set of questions helps identify major factors that drive service use and costs, but they are not the only tool used to determine need. That is, Iowa HHS will use a group of interRAI tools to supplement the core assessment.
 - Members shared that the disability access point is using a new assessment tool that is not part of interRAI.
 - Iowa HHS is aware of this. They are working to align efforts where possible.
 - Members asked whether all the core questions come from existing interRAI tools.
 - Mathematica confirmed that all the core questions are tested and valid interRAI items. Mathematica analyzed the tool and consulted subject matter experts to determine which questions should be added to the core.
 - A member shared a positive experience with the interRAI assessment. She had recently completed it with her son and found it easier to follow than the SIS.
- The next steering committee meeting will be December 2nd. Beginning in 2026, Jamie Edwards at Iowa HHS will begin facilitating the steering committee.
 - Mathematica will contact members to discuss their interest and availability for continuing to participate on the steering committee in 2026.
 - Members asked about the appropriations request for HOME.

- Iowa HHS explained that a Phase 2 appropriation is needed and HHS Directors are currently working on it.
- Members also asked if caregiver training could be included in member budgets under CCO.
 - Iowa HHS shared that the Learning Management System Trualta offers modules on caring for people with physical disabilities, and members can use their budgets to pay caregivers for additional training.
- Members asked about individual directed goods and services—could members put training costs under this service?
 - Iowa HHS will share more guidance about training of employees.
- Members asked whether training for agency staff is paid and included in their rate.
 - Agency staff receive a per diem rate based on a fee schedule set by the legislature, so agencies are responsible for covering training costs.
- Mathematica asked if members had topics they would like more information on in future meetings.
 - Members would like more information on the director's appropriation request.
 - Members would also like to discuss measures of success, or how Iowa HHS will know if HOME is having intended impacts.
- Mathematica will share information on the upcoming listening sessions for public comment as soon as Iowa HHS finalizes those details.