

# Behavioral Health Town Hall

**Marissa Eyanson**, Director of  
Behavioral Health, Iowa HHS

January 22, 2026



# Overview

- ▶ Updates from Iowa HHS
  - Opioid Settlement Fund – fall SFY26 awards
  - Learning and Collaboration
  - Iowa HHS Claims Payment
- ▶ Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (ISTEP)
- ▶ Updates from Iowa PCA
  - System Navigation
  - District Assessment & Planning – Survey Overview, Next Steps
  - Contracting
- ▶ Upcoming Trainings



# Updates from Iowa HHS

Marissa Eyanson

# State Fiscal Year 26 (SFY26) Opioid Settlement Funds



- Fall RFP sought innovative proposals to strengthen opioid prevention, treatment, recovery, and crisis services in Iowa.
- Response was strong, with 53 proposals evaluated and scored by review teams.
- Ten organizations were awarded – ranging from \$207,730 to \$1 million.
- Awardees include behavioral health providers, community health centers, critical access hospitals, and broader community transformation initiatives.
- A second round of procurement is anticipated for spring 2026!

# Learning and Collaboration

## Behavioral Health Prevention Learning Collaborative

- ▶ Community-Based Organizations, Iowa HHS and Iowa PCA
- ▶ Targeted information sharing, deep dive into prevention-focused topics
- ▶ Regular meetings with wide-ranging topics
- ▶ Questions? Reach out to: [BHAssistance@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:BHAssistance@hhs.iowa.gov) for information.



# Iowa HHS Claims Payment

## Behavioral Health Safety-Net Management Information System (SN-MIS)

Data Reflects Claims Paid From: July 21, 2025 - January 12, 2026

Last Updated: 1/21/2026

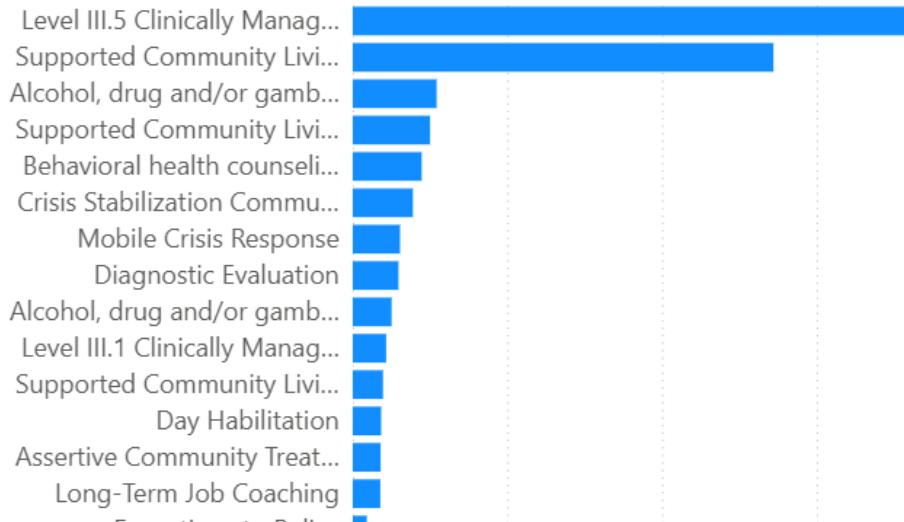
**\$10,474,466.74**

Total Amount Paid

**157**

Unique Providers Using SN-MIS

### Total Paid by Code



### Total Paid by Week



### Provider

Zion Integrated Behavioral Health  
Prairie Ridge  
Pathways Behavioral Services Inc  
Optimae Lifeservices  
Jackson Recovery Centers Inc  
Community & Family Resources  
Center for Alcohol & Drug Services  
Area Substance Abuse Council



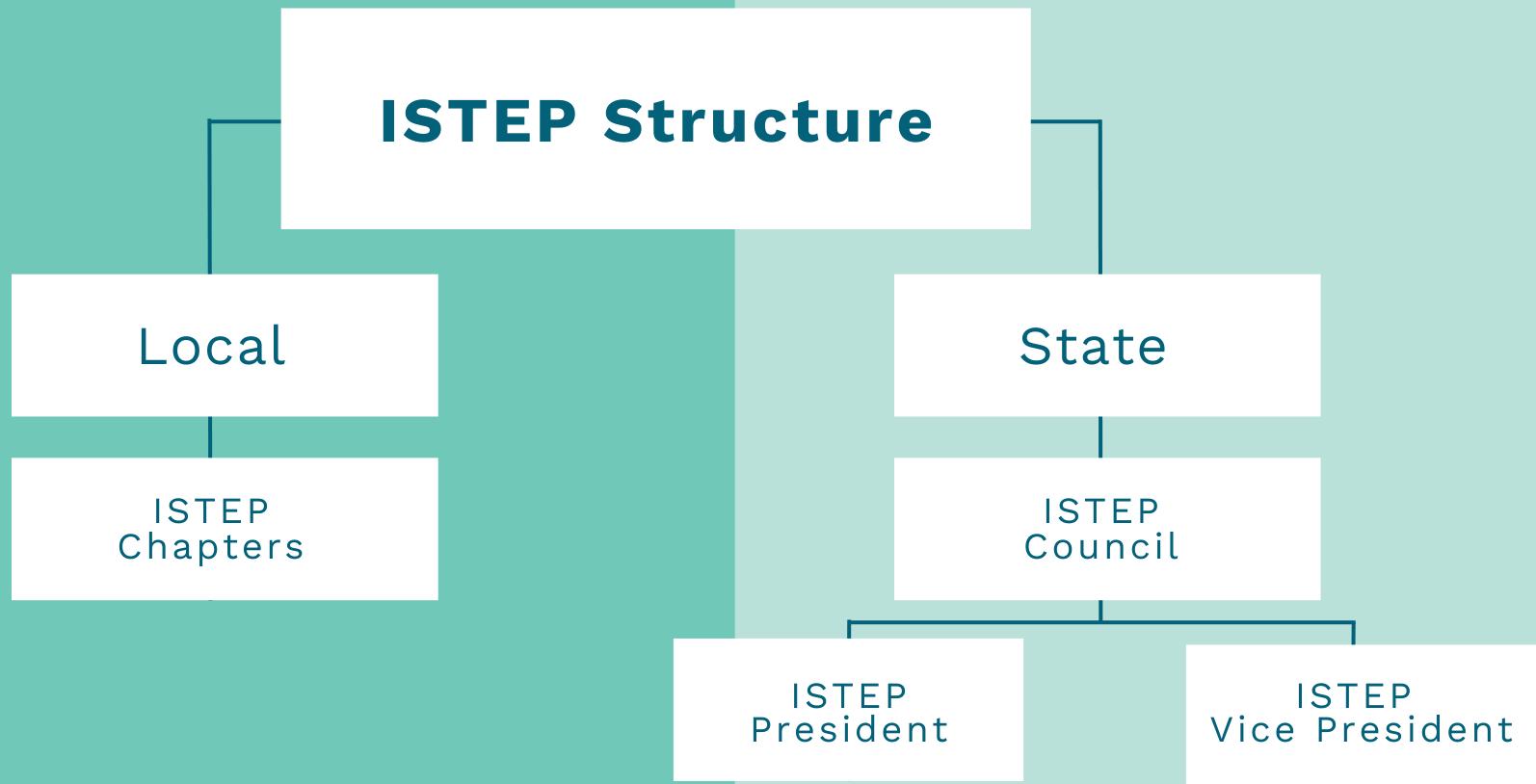
# Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (ISTEP)

Jill Wright

# Iowa Students for Tobacco Education & Prevention (ISTEP)



# ISTEP Structure



# ISTEP Chapters



# ISTEP Council



# Events & Activity Kits



# ISTEP Summit



# Talking Wall



# District Data

## District 1

Chapters: 2

Council members: 1

## District 2

Chapters: 2

Council members: 0

## District 3

Chapters: 11

Council members: 4

## District 4

Chapters: 0

Council members: 0



## District 5

Chapters: 11

Council members: 6

## District 6

Chapters: 9

Council members: 4

## District 7

Chapters: 20

Council members: 3

# Get Involved

1

Promote the  
ISTEP program.

2

Collaborate  
and partner  
with ISTEP.

3

Stay  
connected.



[hhs.iowa.gov/istep](http://hhs.iowa.gov/istep)  
@IowaSTEP

# Thank you!



**Jill Wright**

ISTEP Youth Coordinator  
[jill.wright@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:jill.wright@hhs.iowa.gov)  
[hhs.iowa.gov/istep](http://hhs.iowa.gov/istep)



# Behavioral Health Services

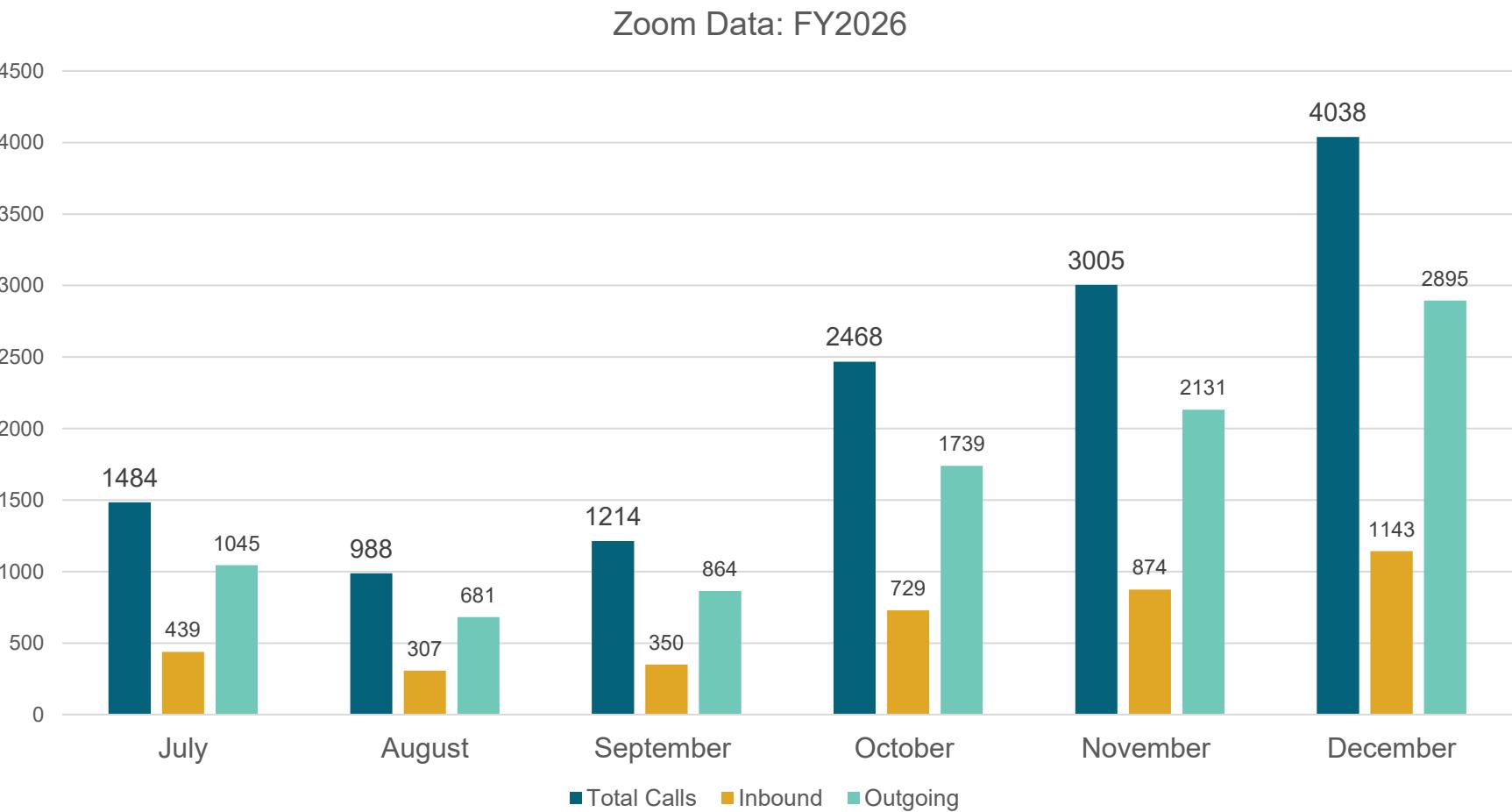
Abbey Ferenzi, LMHC

Senior Director of Behavioral Health Services

Iowa PCA

# System Navigation Updates

## July 1st - December 31st

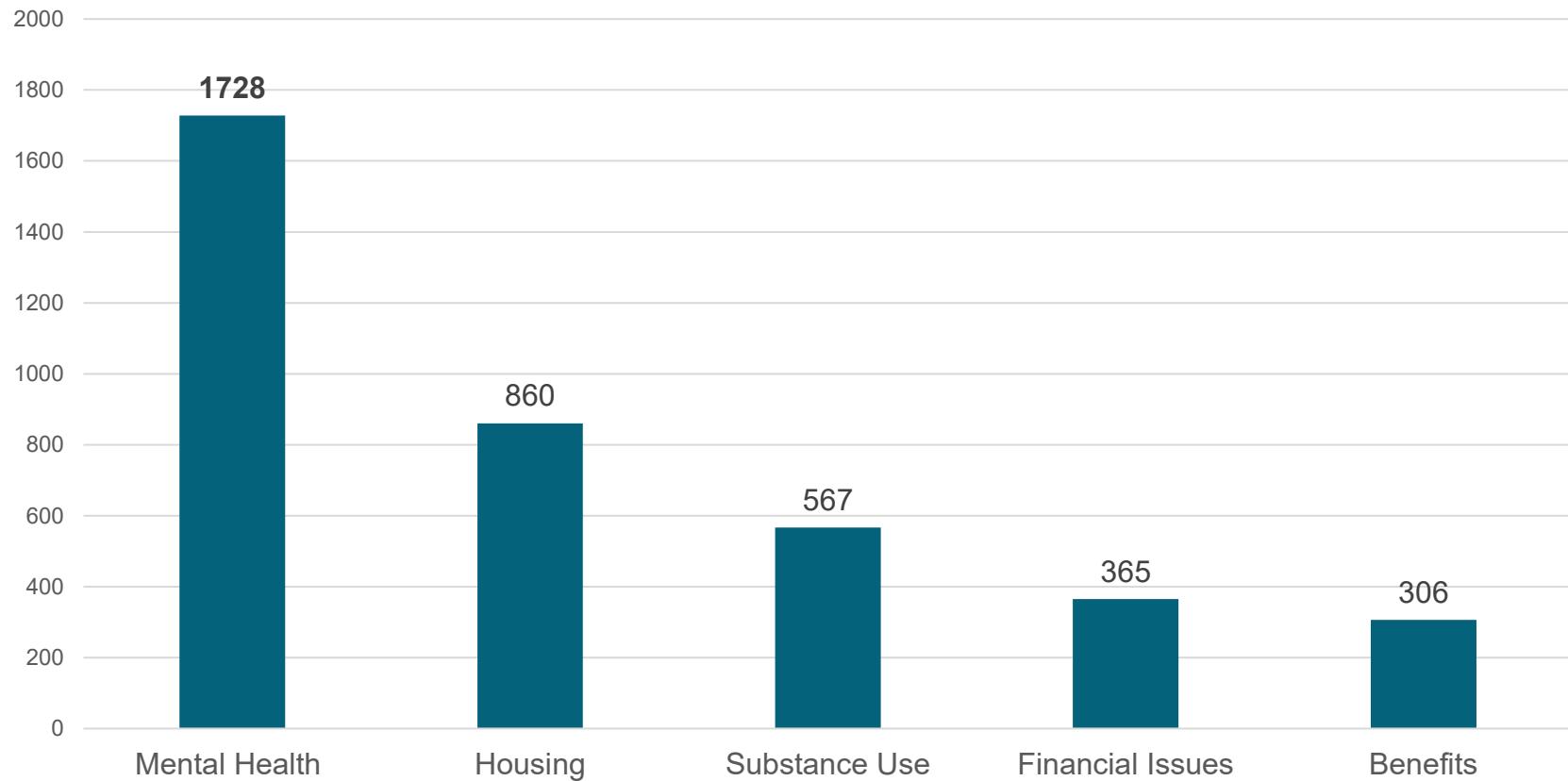


# System Navigation Updates

## July 1st - December 31st



Presenting Needs

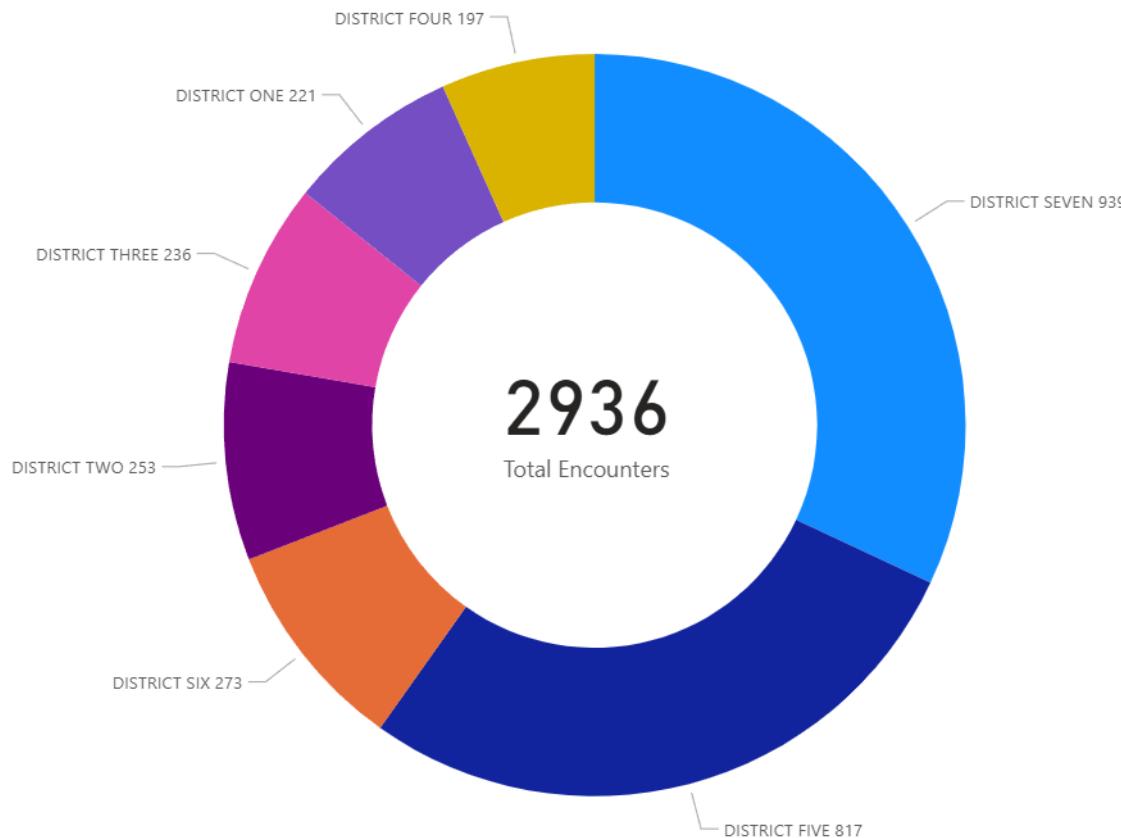


# System Navigation Updates

## July 1st - December 31st



Total Encounters By District

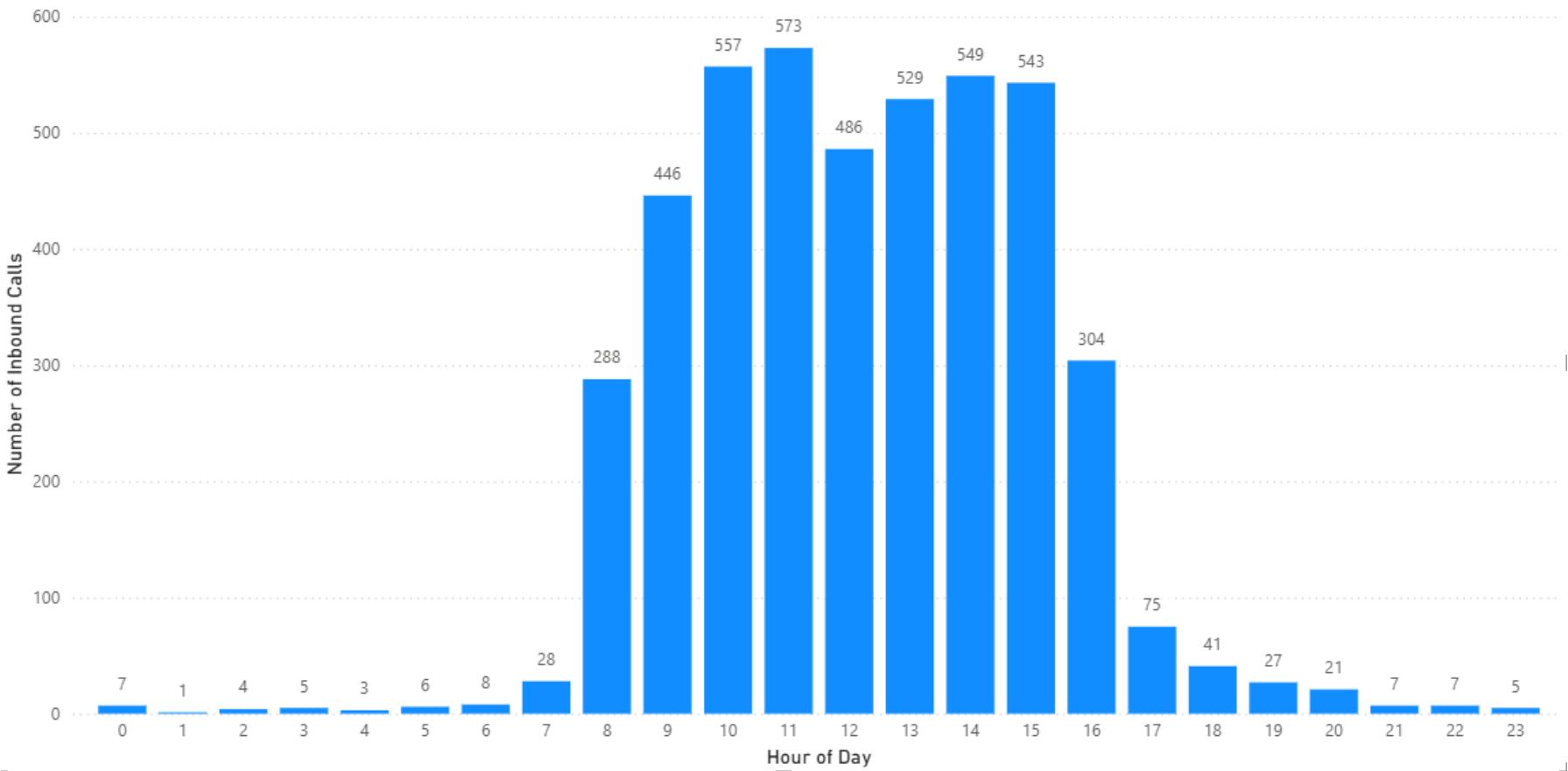


# System Navigation Updates

## July 1st - December 31st



### Referrals Made to System Navigation—Time of Day



# System Navigation: Initial Site Locations

District/County	Provider	Site Address	Site Hours
1 - Woodbury	The Warming Shelter	916 Nebraska St. Sioux City, IA 51105	Tuesday & Wednesday, 8am-4:30pm
2 - Clay	Clay Co. Courthouse	215 W 4th St. Spencer, IA 51301	Tuesday & Wednesday, 8am-4pm
3 - Grundy	Grundy County	706 H Ave. Grundy Center, IA 50638	Monday & Thursday, 8am-4:30pm
3 - Cerro Gordo	Cerro Gordo Co. Public Health	2570 4th St. SW Suite 1 Mason City, IA 50401	Monday & Wednesday, 8am-4:30pm
4 - Guthrie	Guthrie Co. Public Health	2002 State St. Guthrie Center, IA 50115	Tuesday and Thursday, 8am-4:30pm
5 - Polk	St. Vincent de Paul	520 SW Army Post Road Des Moines, IA 50315	Friday 8:30am-4:30pm
5 - Polk	St. Vincent de Paul	1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Des Moines, IA 50314	Monday, 8:30am-4:30pm
6 - Lee	Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa	1618 Main St. Keokuk, IA 52632	Thursday & Friday, 8am-4:30pm
7 - Linn	CRUSH Recovery	317 7th Ave. SE #304 Cedar Rapids, IA 51403	Monday & Wednesday, 8am-4:30pm

# System Navigation — Partnerships in Action



An Iowan experiencing chronic homelessness contacted System Navigation near the District 1–2 border and was hesitant to access shelter services due to past experiences. System Navigators across districts partnered with the Sioux City Warming Shelter to build trust and identify safe options.

Through a coordinated effort, System Navigators:

- Secured transportation to the Warming Shelter
- Scheduled needed medical appointments
- Assisted with housing documentation
- Identified care options that did not require insurance
- Assisted with Medicaid reapplication and approval
- Arranged transportation for safe transition to family housing



*The Warming Shelter, Inc., located in Sioux City, is dedicated to offering low-barrier shelter and compassionate support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Siouxland.*

# System Navigation — Partnerships in Action



“Having a Behavioral Health System Navigator at our Recovery Community Center has significantly strengthened our ability to support individuals and families. Their expertise and statewide connections have made a difference in many situations, and people have consistently told us they feel supported and hopeful after meeting with the navigator.

We’ve seen firsthand how their knowledge and statewide connections help people navigate complex behavioral health and social service needs. **Our navigator is approachable, flexible, and genuinely invested in helping people. It's easy to see how helpful this service is for individuals and families.”**

— Rod Courtney, Founder and Executive Director

*CRUSH of Iowa’s Recovery Community Center in Cedar Rapids connects people in recovery to resources, reduces stigma, hosts community events, and advocates for those in recovery.*



# System Navigation — Partnerships in Action



“Classroom Clinic provides gap-filling, children’s mental health services in partnership with local school districts. System navigation has been a great resource for our providers to access when additional community-based services are needed to support our families. **That collaboration has made a real difference for children who need multiple layered supports within the local community.**”

—Sue Gehling, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Classroom Clinic



*Classroom Clinic, based in Carroll, Iowa, partners with school districts statewide to address unmet student mental health needs by providing timely, convenient access to children’s mental health services through telehealth.*

# District Assessments and Planning—District Advisory Council Meetings



- District Leaders have had 90 engagements in the past 30 days - this includes in person and virtual meetings, events, and presentations.
- District Advisory Council meetings were hybrid in December.
  - We received good engagement and feedback
  - Meeting recordings and slide decks are available on our website
  - Upcoming meetings will be the first week in March (virtual only) and again in June (hybrid)
  - For more information, reach out to the District Leader in your District or go to [District Advisory Councils — Iowa Primary Care Association](#)



# District Assessment Process



## District Assessment Survey Process

- Distributed survey to 2,000+ contracted providers and community stakeholders (Dec 16, 2025–Jan 9, 2026) with multiple reminders to boost participation.
- Collected 171 provider responses and 956 stakeholder responses by close of survey on Jan 9, 2026.

## District Assessment Guided Provider Conversations

- Iowa PCA district leaders will host in-depth sessions with contracted providers to review survey feedback and assess the behavioral health service continuum.
- Sessions scheduled for January 20–February 13, 2026.

## Next Steps

- Identify key findings and themes from provider and stakeholder feedback.
- Use insights to inform development of district plans.
- Seek feedback from District Advisory Councils (DAC) and community members at the March DAC meetings.
- Iowa PCA will submit draft district plans to HHS by March 30, 2026, with final district plans submitted by June 1, 2026.
- Implement plans to guide Iowa PCA operations for Fiscal Year 2027.

# Contracting Update



- The Iowa PCA is actively working with the Iowa HHS behavioral health leadership team to develop a FY27 contracting timeline and process that will kick off earlier than last year.
- Our goal is to communicate about the contracting timeline and process with contracted providers and other partners before April 2026.
- This will allow us to leverage and incorporate the findings from the District Assessment and Planning process, as well as any decisions made by the Iowa Legislature and federal partners.
- We are unable to answer contracting questions today and individual organizations can submit specific questions to [bhasoproviderrelations@iowapca.org](mailto:bhasoproviderrelations@iowapca.org) anytime.

# Upcoming Trainings

Abbey Ferenzi & Marissa Eyanson

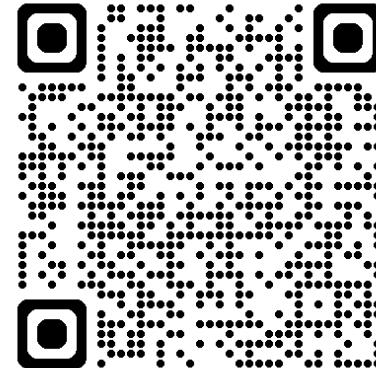
# Advanced De-Escalation Training with SolutionPoint+



***Next training – District 1 – February 18th-20th***

***Location: Sioux City Police Department***

- ✓ Registration is OPEN for all upcoming training sessions
  - [Click here to register](#) or scan the QR Code
- ✓ Max. 20 participants in each 3-day training session
- ✓ Designed for: Behavioral Health Professionals with direct patient/client care
- ✓ 7 total trainings. Future trainings:
  - District 2: March 16th-18th
  - District 5: April 13<sup>th</sup>-15th – Full with waitlist
  - District 3: May 4th-6th - Requesting an organization to host training - Please reach out to Kaitlyn Humpal if interested.  
[kaitlyn.humpal@iowapca.org](mailto:kaitlyn.humpal@iowapca.org)

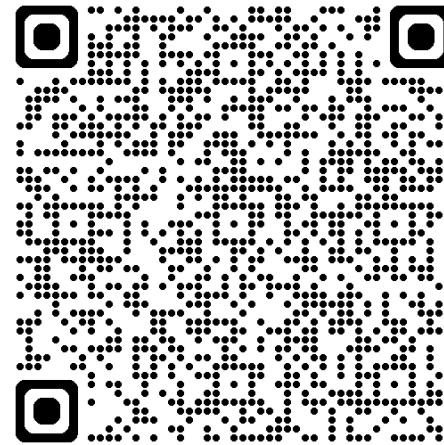


# Crisis Intervention Training with SolutionPoint+



*In this 5-day course, participants will practice realistic crisis scenarios and learn treatment-focused approaches that prioritize care over incarceration. The training builds skills to manage complex situations with compassion, support long-term recovery, and enhance community safety.*

- ✓ Registration is OPEN - [Click here to register](#) or scan the QR Code
- ✓ Dates and Locations:
  - May 18-22 in Bettendorf
  - June 15-19 in Council Bluffs
- ✓ Designed for: Law Enforcement and EMS
- ✓ Please reach out to Kaitlyn Humpal with questions.  
[kaitlyn.humpal@iowapca.org](mailto:kaitlyn.humpal@iowapca.org)



# Iowa PCA + NAMI Iowa



- **February 21–22, 2026: Connection Recovery Support Group**
  - Peer-led support group for any adult who has experienced a mental health condition.
- **March 14–15, 2026: Family Support Group**
  - Peer-led support group for any adult with a loved one who has experienced a mental health condition.
- **April 11-12, 2026: Peer-to-Peer**
  - Education and recovery course for adults who are experiencing or have experienced challenges of a mental health condition.
- **April 18-19, 2026: Family-to-Family**
  - Education course for adult family members, partners, and friends of people with mental health condition.
- **May 2, 2026: In Our Own Voice**
  - Evidence-based presentation offered to community organizations that aims to change attitudes, assumptions and ideas about people with mental health conditions.

***NAMI Train the Trainer***

**2-days (Sat/Sun) & virtual**

**For more information,  
please contact:**

Sarah Martin

[Sarah@namiiowa.org](mailto:Sarah@namiiowa.org)

# Iowa Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health

- ▶ View a full list of Center of Excellence trainings [here](#).
- ▶ Email [iowa-cebh@uiowa.edu](mailto:iowa-cebh@uiowa.edu) to get on their regular email list.

## Coming up in February:

**Mental Health 101 Micro-Learning Series:  
Neurodevelopmental & Behavioral Disorders**

- Wednesday, January 28, 2026
- [Register here](#)



# Iowa Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health (2)

## ► Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM)

- Tuesday, February 17, 2026
- 8:30AM to 12:30PM
- Registration Link:  
[https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/n0ndQPo5RBeS4v2\\_4HYkNQ](https://uiowa.zoom.us/meeting/register/n0ndQPo5RBeS4v2_4HYkNQ)



## ► Sources of Strength – Elementary Coaches Training

- Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>
- 8:00AM to 4:30PM
- DMACC Newton Convention Center
- Registration Link:  
<https://airtable.com/appoosShHYynspgXj/pagHNIdw6U3HWQDDe/form>



# LivingWorks Start

Suicide prevention  
training – accessible for  
anyone.

No set date, time. Have  
access to enroll for **free**  
through November 30,  
2026.

More information and  
sign up:

<https://www.iowacebh.org/livingworks-start/>



# Iowa's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Conference on Behavioral Health

- ▶ April 21-23, 2026
  - April 21: Free
  - April 22-23: \$25
  - One Day: \$15
- ▶ Registration opening soon
- ▶ More information:  
<https://hhs.iowa.gov/events/iowas-49th-annual-governors-conference-behavioral-health>



# Questions

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Iowa HHS Behavioral Health: [\*\*BHassistance@hhs.iowa.gov\*\*](mailto:BHassistance@hhs.iowa.gov)

Iowa PCA BH-ASO Provider: [\*\*bhasproviderrelations@iowapca.org\*\*](mailto:bhasproviderrelations@iowapca.org)