

Presented to the Iowa Health & Human Services (HHS) Council

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# Brain Injury Advisory Committee Report

## Summary of Meetings

In alignment with the Brain Injury Advisory Committee's mission *to help Iowans by suggesting system changes that can stop brain injuries from happening and make things better for those who already have one*, the committee convened for seven, 2-hour sessions to draft the next Iowa State Plan for Brain Injuries. This process was conducted using Zoom and facilitated by the Iowa HHS Strategic Development team. The committee reviewed state data, stakeholder feedback and best practices to inform focus areas and strategies.

A state plan is a federal requirement for grantees receiving funds under the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Partnership Program (opportunity number [HHS-2021-ACL-AOD-TBSG-0070](#)) and serves as a foundational component of a [comprehensive state brain injury program](#).

The state plan will cover 2026-2029 to align with the anticipated timeline of the next federal TBI State Partnership Program Grant from the Administration for Community Living.

## State Plan Components

### Focus Area: Service Delivery

#### **Strategy 1: Evaluate the delivery of brain injury services in Iowa.**

- ▶ Identify gaps in care and barriers to brain injury services in Iowa.
- ▶ Publish a report with findings and recommendations for improvement.
- ▶ Share evaluation recommendations with providers, partners and the public.

#### **Strategy 2: Strengthen brain injury screening, service coordination and workforce capacity.**

- ▶ Prioritize the settings and professions that would benefit from additional brain injury screening and referral training.
- ▶ Train community partners on screening and referral, including information about Brain Injury Resource Facilitation.
- ▶ Offer accessible training options to strengthen person-centered planning skills for staff.
- ▶ Understand the workforce needs of providers and community organizations.

#### **Strategy 3: Increase timely access to medical and community-based services.**

- ▶ Expand use of Brain Injury Resource Facilitation services.
- ▶ Explore options for Iowans who need support but do not qualify for Medicaid waivers.

## Focus Area: Prevention

### **Strategy 4: Strengthen partnerships with Iowa HHS programs.**

- ▶ Identify Iowa HHS programs that can help increase brain injury awareness and prevention efforts.
- ▶ Collaborate with Iowa HHS programs to increase the reach of brain injury education and programming.
- ▶ Ensure existing Iowa HHS programming is inclusive of people with brain injuries.

### **Strategy 5: Reduce preventable brain injuries using evidence-based practices.**

- ▶ Identify and collaborate with groups that share prevention priorities.
- ▶ Use data to find populations most at risk and guide prevention strategies.

### **Strategy 6: Improve concussion prevention and management.**

- ▶ Identify ways to improve concussion tracking and reporting in Iowa.
- ▶ Expand use of the Teacher Acute Concussion Tool in schools.

### **Strategy 7: Raise awareness about non-traumatic and traumatic brain injuries and their causes.**

- ▶ Develop policy briefs on prevention-related topics.
- ▶ Share public awareness messages about the leading causes of traumatic brain injury (falls, motor vehicle crashes, and assaults).
- ▶ Develop toolkits for Brain Injury Awareness Month and Concussion Awareness Day to ensure consistent statewide messaging.
- ▶ Offer Brain Injury 101 training online and in communities across Iowa.

## **Next Steps**

- ▶ Finalized State Plan for Iowa HHS Council review and approval.
- ▶ Develop action plan for Iowa HHS Brain Injury Program to support the strategies of the state plan through grant and state funded initiatives.
- ▶ Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress on state plan strategies, including annual reporting to the HHS Council.
- ▶ Schedule Advisory Committee meetings for discussion and monitoring of the State Plan.

Questions and comments regarding this report may be emailed to [Brain.Injury@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:Brain.Injury@hhs.iowa.gov).