

Steering Committee Meeting Summary

FEBRUARY 24, 2026, 3:00 – 4:30 PM CENTRAL TIME:

Summary of Meeting Themes:

- Iowa HHS shared a recap of the Home and Community-Based Services new waiver public comment period.
- Iowa HHS is reviewing the comments received and finalizing the Adults with Disabilities and Children and Youth waivers to submit to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
 - 176 comments were submitted
 - Most comments focused on clarifying questions, perceived risks or gaps, and many gave overall positive feedback
 - Comments helped **Iowa HHS** better understand individual perspectives.
 - Many comments were **case-specific** and did not apply to the broader waiver population or waiver applications themselves.
 - Five revisions were made based on public comments.
 1. The WPNA language in the applications were revised to read the same across both Children & Youth and Adults with Disability waivers.
 2. Respite care was amended to allow the service to be delivered by individuals aged 16 and older.
 3. Self-direction of PERS was corrected as that service may not be self-directed.
 4. Clarified definitions under Medical Day Care for Children by defining traditional childcare setting is: “structured, center-based programs or licensed in-home care.”
 5. Removed reference to Phase II individualized budgeting in the AD waiver and updated it with the correct Phase I monthly service caps based on Level of Care
 - Two revisions are being considered for future amendments.
 1. Home Maintenance: expansion of adding "per job" as a payment type
 2. The inclusion of maintenance or repair for specific Home and Vehicle Modifications
- Iowa HHS overviewed transitioning to the Hope and Opportunity in Many Environments (HOME) Waivers and Waitlists.
 - Iowa HHS shared phase 1 enrollment pathways describing what will happen to individuals who are currently enrolled in waivers when phase 1 go-live occurs in October 2026.
 - Iowa HHS next shared phase 2 enrollment pathways describing what will happen to individuals currently enrolled on the Intellectual Disability (ID) waiver or waitlist or Brain Injury (BI) waiver or waitlist for phase 1 (October 2026) and Phase 2 (2027 or later).
 - Iowa HHS shared additional details about individuals transitioning from the child to adult waiver

- Steering Committee members led the discussion informing HHS on their perspectives on:
 - Parts of this transition process might be confusing or stressful for families
 - How HHS can we make the transition process easier to navigate
 - What information families need *earliest* to feel prepared for the change at age 21
 - What supports case managers need to smoothly guide members through this process, both for those who qualify for the AD waiver and those who do not.
- The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 31st, 2026** from ***3:00pm-4:30pm***