

I-PAC Monitoring and Oversight Committee

Report – July, 2026

Contact info: lharker@iastate.edu

I. Updates

1. Department of Corrections pilot
 - a. Collaboration between IPWC and First Resources at the Mitchellville women's facility.
 - i. Incarcerated women serving long-term sentences will be trained using peer support curricula to become peer trainers for others.

II. Overview of Program(s)

Iowa Peer Workforce Collaborative

1. Contact: Karen Hyatt, Karen.Hyatt@hhs.iowa.gov
2. Purpose: To train (virtually or in-person) adult, family, and recovery peer support specialists. IPWC also provides workforce technical assistance, supervision support, and funds for continuing education opportunities.
3. Funding: \$500,000
4. Current caseload: Unknown
5. Strengths and Challenges:
 - a. Strengths:
 - i. New shared data-collection system: adult wellness centers and recovery community centers. The goal is to provide real-time, statewide peer support data to support funding proposals and demonstrate impact.
 - ii. Iowa Peer Workforce Collaborative has partnered with Full Circle and received a grant to offer recovery coach training in Mitchellville Corrections Facility for Women. They can come out of prison with a training certification to assist with post-incarceration employment and internal work with other women in the prison.
 - iii. Facility Education with the Department of Psychiatry. Ongoing presentations on peer education, what the training content

consists of, and how peers work with peer bridging work, and how they can be a part of the recovery success plan.

- iv. Family Peer Support education change - to help people who are parents by limiting the in-person training and adding in a virtual component to accommodate the need.
- v. At the Governor's Conference for Behavioral Health Kellee McCrory, Program Manager of IPWC gave an ethics presentation with 40 peer support specialists and recovery coaches present.

b. Challenges:

- i. IHH loss
- ii. Medicaid billing confusion
- iii. Training access and financial issues
 - 1. Virtual options reduce this burden but do not eliminate it.
- iv. Gaps for kids in schools caused by financial strain
- v. Need for creative marketing

III. Recommendations for future funding priorities

- 6. How many peers are trained vs. how many are employed? How is this tracked?
 - a. Thousands trained, about 500 employed (2017). Turnover is high.
 - b. Peer support inventory
- 7. Need to know if IPWC facing staffing shortages.
 - a. Main team:
 - i. Abigail Heaton (director), Lauren, Kaitlyn, Carol (contracted social work professor)
 - ii. Several trainers (2-5, high turnover).
- 8. Do they have to use a data system to report as other reporters do?