

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

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Brain Injury Advisory Committee Report

Summary of Meeting

The Brain Injury Advisory Committee met on July 17, 2026.

The Committee received updates from the Brain Injury Program, including a presentation from two Master of Public Health students from University of Nebraska Medical Center summarizing their practicum projects. The students connected the projects and deliverables to specific strategies and tactics of the State Plan for Brain Injury.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Traumatic Brain Injury Grant application and approved the Brain Injury Program staff's outline of partners and topic areas to be included in the grant proposal. Specific requirements of the grant that impact the Advisory Committee include:

- Maintaining a state advisory board, with at least 50% individuals with lived brain injury experience.
- Complete a bi-annual, statewide needs assessment.
- Monitor and update the State Plan for Brain Injury.

Topics for the required grantee workgroups were also discussed. The Advisory Committee recommended participation in the workgroups focused on Criminal & Juvenile Justice and on Transition & Employment, based on topics that have been workgroups in the past. Two new topics were recommended for inclusion in the grant proposal, in which Iowa could serve as a lead facilitator. Those topics were Brain Injury Resource Facilitation and Strengthening State Brain Injury Programs.

Following the HHS Council approval of the State Plan, the Advisory Committee has decided to form two task force groups, each aligned with one of the two priority areas in the state plan. These workgroups will meet at least monthly to work on strategies and tactics of the plan. The Advisory Committee will meet quarterly as a full group to discuss and monitor progress made to the State Plan.

Questions and comments regarding this report may be emailed to Brain.Injury@hhs.iowa.gov.