Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council (I-PAC)
September 16, 2026, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

IOWA INTEGRATED HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Angela Albers
Teresa Bomhoff
Jennifer Day
Linda Dettmann
Sue Gehling
Skye Hanson
Lorien Harker
Kyra Hawley
Alicia Karwal
Todd Lange
Lily Lockwood-Keil
Megan Marsh
Roxanne Petersen
Brad Richardson
Travis Robinson
Kristin Rooff
Ellen Schardt
Brianna Steffe
Monica Van Horn
Melissa Walker
Ashley Watts
Edward Wollner
Kelly Yeggy

IOWA INTEGRATED HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Quin Eckard
Jessica Goltz
Michael Kaufmann
Jennifer Riley
Dr. Shaad Swim
Hannah Olson
Carlos Vela
William Veltri

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Justin Edwards
Maggie Ferguson
Nicole Hathaway
Sarah Jacob
Patti Manna
Lin Nibbelink
Jerilyn Oshel
Jim Pender
Krys Purscell
Flora A Schmidt
Libby Whelan

Materials Referenced:
2026 DOJ Opinion Summary 0n Integrated Care Mandate
007071c-1_AbbeHealth Srvs_WarmLine Brochure v2 (2)
HOME and HCBS IPAC 09.16.2026
Summer+2026+infoNET
SUPTRS Block Grant Summary for I-PAC
I-PAC July 15 2026 Meeting Minutes DRAFT
I-PAC Workgroup Reports Summary 202609

Welcome / Call to Order

Chair Teresa Bomhoff called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and noted the need to establish a quorum. Patti Manna tracked attendance. A quorum of 21 members was required; quorum was not achieved at any point during the meeting.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes
Approval of July 15, 2026, meeting minutes was postponed due to lack of quorum.

Nominations Committee – Report provided by Brad Richardson.

- Two current vacancies: one parent/guardian seat and one other individual.
- Carlos Vela now serving as Vocational Rehabilitation representative, replacing Vienna Huong.
- Ten members have terms expiring before November; members were reminded to submit renewal confirmations.
- Officer elections scheduled for November; please notify nominations chair if interested.

Monitoring and Oversight Committee – Report provided by Sue Gehling, Roxanne Petersen, and Jenn Day.
Contract reviews focused on NAMI Iowa's Office of Recovery Services and the Iowa Warm Line. Committee members noted outstanding questions about data reporting, staffing models, call tracking, and outdated online resources. Committee members identified several follow-up items, including the need for referral data, demographic updates, staffing details, pay information, and contract clarifications.

Workgroups
Teresa Bomhoff reviewed the Council Committee and Workgroup Reports Summary. The individual reports and workgroup recommendations are summarized below.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) – Todd Lange

- Monitor national updates on billing structures, state-level implementation, and challenges.
- Evaluate justice-involved services and homelessness supports.
- Suggestion for a future statewide update on CCBHC progress.

Children's Issues - Sue Gehling

- Learn more about challenges with discharge processes from PMIC and QRTP settings.
- Learn more about oversight roles between licensing, accreditation, and Medicaid MCO requirements, perhaps consult with Iowa Medicaid staff and MCO representatives.

Older Iowans – Summary read by Teresa Bomhoff.

- Learn more about complex guardianship cases and long waiting lists for the Office of Public Guardian.
- Request to invite a representative from the Office of Public Guardian to the November meeting.
- Monitor ongoing questions related to PASRR evaluations, nursing home closures, and long-term services policy.

Public Safety –Travis Robinson

- Learn more about assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) models in Scott and Johnson counties, statewide expansion following an AOT conference.
- Follow-up planned on prison land sales and facility conditions.

Strategic Planning – Kristin Rooff written report

- Monitor HHS Behavioral Health District development
- Request HHS to develop a public contact flowchart
- Monitor HCBS Waiver System Redesign (2026-2027)
- Track implementation of new HHS IT Systems
- Monitor spending and guidance on Opioid Settlement Funds
- Ensure follow-up on Rural Health Transformation Programs
- Share Waiver system changes with full Council
- Continue tracking HHS leadership status
- Share content generator

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) – Edward Wollner

- Behavioral Health District Advisory Council meetings and opioid settlement updates.
- Monitor county challenges interpreting Exhibit E guidance.
- Learn more about recovery housing expansion, Narcan distribution initiatives, and changes in federal substance use policy.
- Monitor Kratom-related public health concerns.

I-PAC Chair Update – Teresa Bomhoff

Chair Teresa Bomhoff delivered a wide-ranging update touching on recent legislative developments, federal policy changes, and disability rights. She summarized the Department of Justice's June 18, 2026, opinion, which narrows the federal integration mandate and may influence state-level Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). She also reviewed highlights from The Infinite Summer Issue newsletter, particularly sections addressing HCBS waivers, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) policy, Medicaid work requirements, and budget considerations.

Combined Mini-Grant Application Update – Justin Edwards, HHS

Justin Edwards announced that he will be leaving Iowa HHS on October 1 and noted that Laura Larkin will continue supporting the Mental Health Block Grant until a new planner is hired. He shared that the MHBG and Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant webpages have been reorganized to improve stakeholder access to applications, allocation information, public comment materials, and other resources. Justin Edwards then provided an overview of the SUPTRS Block Grant, including funding requirements, priority populations, prevention and treatment investments, recovery supports, and system development activities. He highlighted Iowa's use of funds to support Recovery Community Centers, expand recovery housing certification efforts, and meet federal prevention set-aside requirements. He also reviewed Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements,

discussed differences between the Mental Health and SUPTRS Block Grants, and addressed questions regarding budget figures.

CHAMP Housing Stability and Job Connections Programs – John McCalley
John McCalley of Wellpoint Iowa presented updates on the Job Connections platform, describing its employment supports, job-matching functions, training resources, and referral processes. He then summarized the CHAMP Housing Stability initiative, which offers targeted housing assistance for eligible Wellpoint members in designated counties. He also reviewed upcoming Medicaid work requirement changes and available exemptions.

Public Comment
There was an opportunity for public comment. None offered

Break for lunch
12:06 pm to 12:30 pm

HHS Updates – Theresa Armstrong HHS
Theresa Armstrong of HHS Behavioral Health provided updates on the following items:

Suicide Prevention & 988 Awareness
September is Suicide Prevention Month, and Iowa continues to see rising suicide rates, making awareness efforts critical. Theresa highlighted the importance of conversations that reduce stigma and shared that 988 offers confidential, Iowa-based crisis support.

National Recovery Month
September also recognizes National Recovery Month, emphasizing that recovery is possible with the right supports. Iowa's 4th Annual Recovery Conference features local and national speakers to strengthen recovery-ready communities.

National Preparedness Month
Theresa noted expanded training and recruitment for Iowa's Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT). DBHRT assists communities and first responders with behavioral health needs after crises or disasters.

District Advisory Councils
District Advisory Councils are meeting this week and provide updates on regional behavioral health priorities. Stakeholders are encouraged to attend for information relevant to their districts.

Behavioral Health Town Hall – Health Information Exchange
The upcoming Behavioral Health Town Hall will focus on Converge Health Iowa's Health Information Exchange, which enables secure sharing of health information among providers. The system improves care coordination with tools like push notifications, closed-loop referrals, and bed availability tracking.

SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework Grant (Methamphetamine)
Iowa received a five-year, $2M-per-year SAMHSA grant to expand evidence-based

methamphetamine prevention efforts. The program focuses on reducing use among individuals ages 18–29, the most common age of initiation.

Kratom Public Health Concerns
Theresa reported significant increases in kratom-related deaths, prompting statewide awareness efforts. She emphasized kratom is not a safe alternative treatment and poses rising public health risks.

Children's Behavioral Health System Updates
HHS is strengthening cross-division collaboration across Medicaid, child protection, and behavioral health to build a more coordinated children's BH system. Efforts include system organization and improvements to service integration.
Wellmark and the BH-ASO expanded school-based behavioral health services across rural districts through grants and virtual provider contracts. Schools reported positive results, with increased service use and continuation of programs into year two.

Hope and Opportunities in Many Environments (HOME) Project – Christy Casey, HHS
Christy Casey of Iowa Medicaid provided an update on the Hope and Opportunities in Many Environments (HOME) Project and upcoming Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver changes. She reviewed planned waiver amendments effective January 1, 2027, including the addition of peer mentoring and community transition services, implementation of a uniform fee schedule, and the use of off-year assessments. She also discussed progress on the HOME Project, highlighting efforts to develop a universal person-centered service plan, redesign residential services, create individualized budgets, and consolidate existing waivers into three broader categories: Child & Youth, Adult with Disabilities, and Elderly. In addition, she outlined the project timeline and noted ongoing information technology challenges associated with implementation.

Public Comment
There was an opportunity for public comment, with none offered.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Patti Manna.