



**DHS Council Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2022**

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES</b>
Rebecca Peterson - present	Director Kelly Garcia – present
Skylar Mayberry-Mayes – present	Jean Slaybaugh - present
Kimberly Kudej – present	Matt Highland – present
Sam Wallace – present	Alex Carfrae - present
Jack Willey – present	Faith Sandberg-Rodriguez-present
Monika Jindal - present	Nancy Freudenberg – present
Kay Fisk - present	Carrie Malone - present
	Vern Armstrong - present
	Janee Harvey - present
	Liz Matney – present

<b>EX-OFFICIO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS</b>
Representative Joel Fry – absent
Senator Mariannette Miller-Meeks – absent
Senator Amanda Ragan – absent
Representative Timi Brown-Powers – absent

**Call to Order**

Chair Rebecca Peterson called the Council meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. via zoom teleconference.

**Roll Call**

All council members were present, all Ex-Officio council members were absent.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Willey and seconded by Mayberry-Mayes to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021, meeting.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**Rules**

The following amendments to the administrative rules are presented as Noticed rules.

**N-1. Amendments to Chapter 12, “Volunteer Services,” Iowa Administrative Code. (Rescind chapter)**

The Department is rescinding this chapter as the legal framework for volunteers is covered under the Code of Iowa. This review is part of the department’s five-year rules review process for MHDS rules.

**N-2. Amendments to Chapter 29, “Mental Health Institutes,” Iowa Administrative Code. (Aligns rules with current practices)**

The Department is updating the administrative rules for the Mental Health Institutes. References to four catchment areas are being removed. Rules listing specific visiting hours are being revised to state visiting hours shall be posted in each facility. References to the central point of coordination are being removed as that terminology is no longer in use. This review is part of the department’s five-year rules review process for MHDS rules.

**N-3. Amendments to Chapter 30, “State Resources Centers,” Iowa Administrative Code. (Align rules with current practice)**

The department is updating information on application processing and the admission process. The catchment area for the two resource centers is identified in the current rules. The rules are being amended to state individuals may be admitted to a state resource center in another catchment area if that facility has a more suitable opening. References to the central point of coordination are being removed as that terminology is no longer in use. This review is part of the department’s five-year rules review process for MHDS rules.

**N-4. Amendments to Chapter 31, “Civil Commitment Unit,” Iowa Administrative Code. (Align rules with current practice and the Iowa Code)**

The department is updating proposed rules for the Civil Commitment Unit (CCUSO) to include adding the facility administrator or designee is authorized to approve visits outside the facility. The rule on gifts or bequests of value is updated to align with the Iowa Code. This review is part of the department’s five-year rules review process for MHDS rules.

**N-5. Amendments to Chapter 103, “State Training School,” Iowa Administrative Code. (Aligns rules with current practice and the Iowa Code)**

The department is updating proposed rules for the State Training School to remove Toledo as a listed facility and update the visiting hours. The rule on gifts or bequests of value is updated to align with the Iowa Code. This review is part of the department’s five-year rules review process for MHDS rules.

**N-6. Amendments to Chapter 118, “Child care Quality Rating System” Iowa Administrative Code. (Updates the child care quality rating system for new applications).**

The Quality Rating System which is a voluntary program for child care providers to achieve bonuses as providers meet rating standards has been redesigned. The new program is Iowa Quality for Kids (IQ4K). These rules provide the framework for the program and will be used for new applications. The departments’ goal is to improve the quality of care at child care providers.

A motion was made by Wallace to approve and seconded by Kudej.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**

**Director’s Report**

**Covid Update**

Director Garcia informed the Council that we are seeing a spike in numbers due to the Omicron variant and it is putting a strain on our hospital capacity throughout the state.

It is also having a major impact in the clinical space outside of hospitals. She encouraged providers who are experiencing that stress to reach out to the public health department for help. She stated that we don’t want to see a disruption in services that are equal parts important to mitigating Covid.

**Medical Director Update**

Director Garcia stated that Medical Director interviews have been completed. This position will oversee the public health functions of our newly structured health and human services structure.

Multi-disciplinary interview teams participated in the interview process. A verbal offer has been extended to an incredibly talented individual whose skill set would be perfect for this position. Director Garcia informed the Council that they would be notified of before we issue a press release.

### **HHS Alignment**

Director Garcia notified the Council that over the past few months our Executive team has been gathering external feedback and working internally with our vendor PCG to develop a functional organizational chart. This will create a pathway for how we come together. Our leadership team met to walk through the first drafts, and plan to meet again, as will bureau chiefs, to put forward a recommendation, which she will review. We will want to carve out time with the Council to review what it looks like and the why around the changes and goals we hope to achieve in this new arrangement. More to come.

### **DHS Policy Package for 2022 Legislative Session**

Janee Harvey, Division Administrator for Adult, Child, and Family Services announced that 204 million dollars will be issued from ARPA funds to stabilize our child care network in the state. Any child care provider who experienced a loss due to the pandemic is eligible to apply online. Our child care bureau is working on a recruitment and retention bonus program to incentivize the people that do this work. We have also executed a contract with Opportunity Exchange to come into Iowa and help us develop shared services for people who open up child care centers in their home who need assistance with managing payment processing and other business functions. Janee reviewed the Family First policy, highlighting the successes we have had in the state including reducing the number of youths in group care by 48%. She stated that 50% of all children and youth in foster care are living with relatives or fictive kin. This legislative session we are making significant changes to Iowa Code Chapter 232 which is the primary chapter that deals with juvenile justice and child welfare matters. The three major areas of change we are making modifications to are technical concerns, Family First aligned changes, and other substantive changes that including extending foster care to the age of 21 years of age.

### **Behavioral Health, Aging, Disability Services Evaluation**

Medicaid Director Liz Matney updated the council on our enhanced home and community-based services spending plan that is funded through the American rescue plan. The goal is to proceed with efforts to increase our provider capacity, which will translate to increased access for our members, to improve quality and support the workforce. This centers around our HCBS which services our members who are in the community in lieu of institutional care. One of the biggest pieces of this centers around our behavioral health, aging and disability services evaluation. The contract was awarded to Mathematica late last year and they are close to kicking off. The goal of this evaluation is to look at the entire behavioral health, disability, and aging system which Medicaid is a very big part of. A few of the outputs that we are looking for with this evaluation is to look at the system as a whole and find opportunities to provide additional care and possibly redesign the way we offer services today. At the end of the day, we want to get closer to our mission that we are providing equitable services no matter what population group our members fall into. Another goal is to find opportunities to synergize with other systems in the state that serve very similar populations to Medicaid. We would like to work better together from process perspective, to maximize funding. Director Matney stated we would like to improve care coordination for members as well.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Kudej to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Jindal.

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Julie McCauley  
Council Secretary