

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2022
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Ave, Des Moines

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Allen	Marcus Johnson-Miller
Brad Niebling (co-chair)	Mary Neubauer
Darci Alt	Okpara Rice
Kari Price	Richard Whitaker
Kelly Garcia (co-chair)	Shanell Wagler

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM (do not count for quorum):

Scott Hobart
Carol Meade
Beth Townsend

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Cox	Senator Liz Mathis
Representative Timi Brown-Powers	Dr. Nate Noble
Senator Jeff Edler	Jason Sandholdt
Representative Shannon Lundgren	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Barb Anderson	Carrie Malone
Theresa Armstrong	Elizabeth Matney
Tasha Beghtol	Robin McKee
Jody Bridgewater	Vickie Miene
Alex Carfee	Rhonda Nelson
Rachel Cecil	Sharon Nieman
Courtney Clement	Hannah Olson
Jacque Coulson	Analisa Pearson
Liz Cox	Tony Remer
Wendy DePhillips	Dan Ries
Jim Donoghue	Flora Schmidt
Marissa Eyanson	Kim Scorza
Natalie Ginty	Adrienne Seusy
Emilee Harris	Sharrell Soliveras
Emma Hester	Michele Tilotta
Britney Hicken	Jennifer Vermeer
Mae Hingtgen	Qian Wang
Michelle Holst	Carlye Wellman
Jamie Horbach	Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson
Sandi Hurtado-Peters	Sue Whitty
Kathy Johnson	Sara Wise
Victoria Keith	

Materials Referenced

Children's Board March 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Conditions for Learning Survey PowerPoint Presentation

Iowa Health and Human Services Alignment Website <https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov/>

Functional Organizational Chart for Iowa Health and Human Services Department

https://hhsalignment.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/resources/2022-03/FOC_PDF_FINAL.pdf.

Your Life Iowa Website <https://yourlifeiowa.org/>

Say Something About Suicide Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmm0MskqZ0k&list=PLsfcjTQBxPDFa66XW_SfyznUIRQoT4_iS&index=48

You Are Not Alone Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pedpnz57PZ4&list=PLsfcjTQBxPDFa66XW_SfyznUIRQoT4_iS&index=49

Welcome and Introductions

Brad Niebling called the meeting to order at 10:01 am thanking the Children's Board and the public for their attendance in-person. Introductions were led by Director Kelly Garcia. Quorum was not established as there were only ten members attending in-person.

Review & Vote on Approval of March 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes

This agenda item was tabled until the July 12, 2022, meeting due to quorum not being met.

Chapter 25 5-year Rules Review

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief of Division of Mental Health and Disability Services – Community, provided an update on administrative rule changes to Chapter 25. Theresa stated that the changes made were due to the legislated five-year review of all administrative rules and that the changes made were to correct or remove obsolete language and code references, as well as non-substantive grammatical changes. Theresa noted that the rule package would be going to the Mental Health and Disability Services Commission in June to be noticed and then published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin (IAB).

Conditions for Learning Survey

Barb Anderson & Courtney Clement, Iowa Department of Education reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on the Conditions for Learning Survey regarding the metric outcome 4.3 recommendation to increase the number of behavioral health services and supports in schools for children and their families.

The Board discussed the reliability of the survey questions and how the data is used in making resource decisions. The Board discussed the concerning numbers for emotional safety including how to involve students to figure out why these numbers are consistently low. The Board discussed having a child attend a board meeting to participate in a discussion on emotional safety. The Board also discussed the current use of a mindfulness tool or curriculum which has helped. The Board discussed what funding has been used to address the issues in the survey and what has and has not worked.

Mathematica

Liz Matney, Director of Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME), introduced herself and reviewed HCBS services, including workforce challenges providers are facing across the state. One large project included issuing an RFP for a contractor to perform an overall evaluation of the behavioral

health, developmental disability, and aging services in the State. The RFP was awarded to Mathematica. Mathematica subcontracting with the Harkin Institute has formulated a plan focusing on Medicaid, but looking at all the intersections with other state agencies, divisions, MHDS Regions, etc. The plan has three main areas including data (eligibility and claims), policy and procedure review (Iowa specific and how it fits within the umbrella of the federal Medicaid program), and qualitative information obtained through interviews with Medicaid and MHDS staff as well as other state staff and community stakeholders. There will be a series of listening sessions over the summer to obtain community stakeholder feedback. The evaluation began in early 2022 and will take a year to complete with first recommendations hopefully received by the end of the year. Priorities of the project are to look at equitable access to services, that staff and providers feel well-trained and supported in their roles assisting individuals and driving forward services that are helping people with a focus on evidence-based practices, when possible. There will be a website created for this evaluation process and should launch sometime this summer. There will be an online input tool available on the website. This tool along with the listening sessions are ways for providers and the public to provide feedback.

The Board discussed how the needs of the underserved populations are obtained as well as how to obtain information from populations that typically don't participate in listening sessions. It was noted that Mathematica was working with the Harkin Institute to work with different advocacy and minority groups about how they access assistance or services, including looking at individuals that don't have access to Medicaid. The Board discussed looking at how Medicaid and the child welfare system can work together better as well as other state models. The Board discussed the need for transparency through stakeholder input, collaboration, and engagement.

Break

11:37 am to 12:10 pm

Department & Legislative Updates

Director Kelly Garcia, Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), provided an update on the Health and Human Services (HHS) alignment of DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health. Director Garcia shared information regarding the recently released final change package and the HHS Functional Organizational Chart noting that these documents can be found on the HHS Alignment website. For this alignment process an outside consultant was hired, which allowed the Director as well as other staff to participate in the process. The work has been driven by staff input, neutral in process and equal time has been spent with both agencies. Language has been added to the budget to provide state funding to begin the alignment of both agencies beginning July 1st.

The Board discussed the lack of clarity regarding the Board's interactions with the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and the MHDS Regions, and what can the Board do to support the need for that clarity. The Board discussed the timeline for the alignment process.

Director Garcia shared information about what is being seen for group care in QRTP's and shelters, including lack of beds, and staffing shortages. Currently working on changes to bridge the gap to a Request for Proposal to redesign residential spaces in the State.

Director Garcia shared current efforts for suicide prevention, including two videos, "Say Something" and "You Are Not Alone", that are part of a Your Life Iowa (YLI) media campaign. These ads are being shared heavily on social media (e.g., TikTok and YouTube) and streaming services (e.g., Hulu). Director Garcia indicated that teen input was utilized to ensure the

message resonated. There has been a heavy launch around advertising and toolkits, including conversations with employers and space for adults to have conversations with kids.

The Board discussed current trends in Iowa for youth suicide and how substance use is impacting level of acuity in middle school-age kids. The Board discussed ads for the LGBTQ population. The Board discussed the need to teach teachers about the survey, suicide prevention, etc. There was discussion regarding data from the United Way on reading, which is seeing some recovery from the very low numbers during the pandemic. It was noted that inflation is also a huge issue impacting individuals.

The Board discussed the unintended consequences of reducing the stigma around mental health including the increase of the number of individuals in therapy and the current need for clinicians. There was also discussion regarding the number of young adults pursuing clinical jobs in mental health. These clinicians would have initially had to work with community providers, who work with higher acuity individuals, but due to the changes in the law these clinicians can go directly into private practice who normally serve individuals with lower acuity. The Board decided to table the conversation regarding metrics and outcomes due to time constraints.

Public Discussion on Recommendations

The Board discussed tracking what is going on with the legislature, including the work that the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education plan to do over the summer for next session and how the Board can help. The Board discussed recommendations regarding rates and what needs to be done to come up with more concrete language for legislators. There was also discussion on recommendations regarding workforce development and the stigma associated with being a social services provider. The Board discussed the new social services track and a possible future presentation on this topic. There was discussion regarding salaries and staffing issues as well. The Board discussed addictive disorders and the unintended consequences of keeping kids out of the juvenile justice system and how it may keep kids from getting necessary treatment.

Planning for Future Meetings/Additional Discussion

Director Garcia and Brad reviewed possible agenda items and logistics for the next meeting which will be in-person at Polk County River Place with the option to view the Children's Board meeting via live video stream. There was discussion regarding possible future agenda items including MHDS Regions evidence-based practices and data analytic groups as well as the Iowa Change Leadership Vision Council. There was additional discussion regarding the Zoom option not allowing virtual attendees to participate in the meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

Kelly Garcia and Brad Niebling thanked the Board for their attendance and participation. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.