

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Zoom

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Allen	Kelly Garcia (co-chair)
Beth Townsend	Marcus Johnson-Miller
Brad Niebling (co-chair)	Mary Neubauer
Carol Mead	Okpara Rice
Dan Cox	Peggy Huppert
Darci Alt	Richard Whitaker
Jason Sandholdt	Scott Hobart
Kari Price	Shanell Wagler

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Aimee Lenth	Liza Howard
Aza Adam	Marissa Eyanson
Barb Anderson	Matt Highland
Britney Hicken	Megan Logan
Carlye Wellman	Michele Tilotta
Chaney Yeast	Michelle Holst
Christina Eggink-Postma	Nathan Kirstein
Emily Blomme	Qian Wang
Emma Hester	Rachel Cecil
Eric Preuss	Rhonda Nelson
Faith Sandberg-Rodriguez	Rob Aiken
Flora Schmidt	Robin McKee
Hannah Olson	Ryanne Wood
Jacque Coulson	Sharon Nieman
Jamie Orozco Nagel	Sharrell Soliveras
Jennifer Robbins	Steve Bowen
Julie Gibbons	Sue Whitty
Kari Price	Tami Gilliland
Keri Neblett	Tammy Wetjen-Kersterson
Kim Scorza	Tasha Beghtol
LeAnne Magre	Teresa Bomhoff
Linda Duffy	Torie Keith
Lisa Bringle	Wendy DePhillips
Liz Cox	

Materials Referenced

Children's Board January 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes

IDPH Prevention Priorities - <https://idph.iowa.gov/Bureau-of-Substance-Abuse/Prevention-Related-Programs/Prevention-Priorities/Suicide>

DE Suicide Prevention - <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/mental-health/suicide-prevention>

Polk County Health Services Local and National Suicide Prevention Resources – [Suicide Prevention | Polk County Health Services \(pchsia.org\)](https://www.pchsia.org)

Conditions for Learning Surveys - <https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/every-student-succeeds-act/conditions-learning-cfl>

Grant opportunity for Social-Emotional-Behavioral-Health initiatives -

<https://educateiowa.gov/article/2022/03/03/grants-available-social-emotional-behavioral-health>

BELIEF Grants - <https://educateiowa.gov/article/2022/02/04/gov-reynolds-iowa-department-education-award-over-150000-school-districts-explore>

Iowa Youth Survey - <https://iowayouthsurvey.idph.iowa.gov/>

Your Life Iowa website - [Homepage | Your Life Iowa](https://www.yourlifeiowa.org)

Welcome and Introductions

Brad Niebling called the meeting to order at 10:03 am thanking the Children's Board and the public for their attendance. Quorum was established at with twelve members present virtually.

Review & Vote on Approval of January 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Dan Cox made a motion to approve the January 11, 2022, meeting minutes. Richard Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Updates

Brad Niebling, Bureau Chief with the Department of Education provided an update the Conditions for Learning survey. There are two different versions of the survey, for grades 3-5 and grades 6-12 to address developmental considerations. The surveys are completed annually, and this year will be administered from April 1st to April 29th. The surveys are confidential, anonymous, and voluntary but are part of the accountability with federal partners. End results are reported at the building level and are used to influence improvement to support student needs.

Brad shared an update on a partnership with IDPH. DE is administering a \$4.5M federal grant from the CDC with some funds must be directed to schools to establish, sustain, and train school health programs around social, emotional behavioral health because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DE is looking for 40-80 school districts to receive funds based on their proposed plans to expand or enhance social, emotional behavioral health programming. These applications are due Friday, March 11th.

Brad also shared in partnership with the Governor's Office, the DE will provide planning grants to school districts to work with community childcare providers to form systems that are highly integrated to create a clear path from childcare settings to educational settings. There is currently a pilot program in Council Bluffs. Following the first round of applications, DE was able to award 16 grants for a total of \$116,000. On March 8th, DE opened a second round of applications that will close

Lastly, Brad shared the DE has started planning for the second Annual Iowa BEST Conference. Brad welcomed feedback from the Board on topics of focus for the conference.

Director Kelly Garcia, Iowa Department of Human Services, shared an update on the 232 Omnibus rewrite of code to bring Iowa's Code in line with Families First implementation. The legislation did pass the funnel deadline and is on the debate calendar for both chambers, HF 2507 and SF 2257.

Director Garcia shared the Department continues to participate in the Chief Justice's Juvenile Justice Task Force and are beginning to make progress in how to improve outcomes for justice involved youth.

Director Garcia provided an update on the continued work with Polk County in response to a cluster of youth suicides among youth and young adults. This response has connected many community partners and developed new, ongoing connections. Director Garcia shared the Department has learned that there is a need to refresh materials and content for many audiences relating to suicide prevention, specifically employers to support their employees in new working spaces and youth, pre-teen, and teen audiences.

Director Garcia provided an update on the Health and Human Services Alignment work and continues to move forward on refining the functional organization chart. The functional organization chart will come with a communication package.

The Board discussed approaching suicide prevention across the state as a collective while being attentive to the impact this work has on providers as well.

Rules Update

Rob Aiken, Community Consultant with Division of Mental Health & Disability Services – Community, provided an update on administrative rule changes to Chapter 25. SF 619 shifted mental health funding from county levies to state funding and created a general fund to be distributed to the MHDS Regions through performance-based contracts managed by DHS. These rules are to implement SF 619.

Review of Strategic Planning Recommendations

Shelley Horak, DHS Program Manager, reviewed the planning results with the Children's Board. Shelley walked through the goals and action steps identified by the Board to include the strategic planning. Shelley reviewed the Board's commitment to a 2-year timeline meaning each year will focus on one Outcome. Agendas, workgroups, the work plan, and responsibility for assignment of action will all support the 2-year timeline. Shelley walked the Board through assigning responsibility in working with the Department brainstorming content experts and stakeholders to engage for Children's Board meeting presentations. The Board requested to hear from school personnel, mental health providers serving in schools, community services working in schools, and payors of behavioral health services in schools.

Children's Board Membership

Director Garcia and Brad Niebling welcomed a new member of the Children's Board, Kari Price, fulfilling the K-12 representative position.

Public Comment

Liz Cox thanked the Board for their discussion and agreed that focus on supporting the mental health of the behavioral health workforce. Liz challenged discussions around workforce to include discussions on reimbursement rates and a potential solution to support the behavioral health workforce through this arena as well.

Sue Whitty shared a resource to support employers, Mental Health America National, to support mental health workforce literacy. Sue encouraged the Metrics Subcommittee to include staff to student ratio when looking at behavioral health services.

Break

11:55 am to 12:45 pm

Presentation of Topic(s) for Recommendation

Brad Niebling walked the Board through a continued conversation of the State's response to a increased mental health crisis that are occurring. Brad reviewed national trends, what State Departments are hearing, and how State Departments came together to begin addressing this increasing need.

Keri Neblett, Suicide Prevention Director with IDPH, and Eric Preuss, Your Life Iowa Project Director with IDPH, reviewed the current efforts occurring in the State including, Zero Suicide, the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, 9-8-8, Your Life Iowa, Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER II) for Public PK-12 Grants, and the COVID-19 Public Health Workforce Supplemental Funding Opportunity Grant. Keri also shared IDPH is currently revising Iowa's Plan for Suicide Prevention and will be applying for the GLS Grant through SAMHSA.

Brad provided shared the work being done within DE including enforcing legislation that passed, SF 2113, that requires school employee training to include suicide prevention and postvention, identification of adverse childhood experiences, and strategies to mitigate toxic stress response.

The Board discussed what is working well in the state, what gaps are there, and what opportunities are there to enhance state efforts. The Board discussed the crisis services available and making sure there is awareness of those services but also there is a need beyond crisis services for ongoing, child and family intervention.

Public Discussion on Recommendations

The Board discussed moving forward with the strategic plan discussed with Shelley, prioritizing topics to focus on things the Board can move forward and are actionable. The Board had a robust conversation on moving forward as a state to address increasing mental health needs among youth and their families.

Planning for Future Meetings/Additional Discussion

Director Garcia and Brad reviewed logistics for the next meeting being in-person at Polk County River Place with the option to view the Children's Board meeting via live video stream.

Public Comment

Teresa Bomhoff voiced concern regarding proposed legislation impacting the LGBTQ+ community and if the Board has a response to this legislation. Teresa recommended a presentation from One Iowa to the Children's Board.

Adjourn

Brad Niebling and Marissa Eyanson thanked the Board for their attendance and participation. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Torie Keith.