

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2022
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Zoom

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Allen	Carol Meade
Darci Alt	Brad Niebling (co-chair)
Dan Cox	Okpara Rice
Kelly Garcia (co-chair)	Jason Sandholdt
Scott Hobart	Beth Townsend
Peggy Huppert	Shanell Wagler
Marcus Johnson-Miller	Richard Whitaker
Senator Liz Mathis	

CHILDREN'S BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Timi Brown-Powers	Mary Neubauer
Senator Jeff Edler	Dr. Nate Noble
Representative Shannon Lundgren	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Aza Adams	Robin McKee
Barb Anderson	Erin Monaghan
Theresa Armstrong	Sharon Nieman
Tasha Beghtol	Mary O'Neil
Michael Bergan	Jay Pennington
Teresa Bomhoff	Rhonea Rairden-Nelson
Lisa Bringle	Dan Ries
Rachel Cecil	Jennifer Robbins
Jacque Coulson	Flora Schmidt
Liz Cox	Debra Schrader
Lisa Cushatt	Kim Scorza
Marissa Eyanson	Mahek Shahid
Julie Gibbons	Dawn Sickelka
Tami Gilliland	Sharrell Soliveras
Jennifer Harbison	Denise Swartz
Janee Harvey	Michele Tilotta
Jan Heidemann	Mary Nelle Trefz
Britney Hicken	Carlye Wellman
Matt Highland	Qian Wang
Mae Hingtgen	Xiaping Wang
Shelley Horak	Sarah Welch
Chelsea Hoye	Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson
Torie Keith	Ryanne Wood
Aimee Length	Chaney Yeast
Megan Logan	

Materials Referenced

Children's Board November 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Children's Behavioral Health Meeting PowerPoint

FAQ about SF532 – Establishing a Statement of Professional Recognition for Mental Health Professionals

Maintaining Connections Through Kinship Support

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 11:01am with thirteen members present virtually.

Review & Vote on Approval of November 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Andrew Allen made a motion to approve the November 9, 2021, meeting minutes. Peggy Huppert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Updates

Brad Niebling, Bureau Chief with the Department of Education provided an update on social emotional behavioral health efforts. In 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.

Brad shared the Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE) has issued a FAQ document on SF532, Establishing a Statement of Professional Recognition for Mental Health Professionals in schools. The goal of this document is to increase the flexibility of mental health professionals working in schools.

Brad also shared the DE released a RFAP on social-emotional-behavioral health universal screening tools (<https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/request-approval-rfap-social-emotional-behavioral-health-universal-screening>) as a result of SF 2261 to create an approved list of behavioral health screening tools. The DE received proposals from vendors on varying tools and is in the process of reviewing those applications to select what tools are available for providers to select from.

Lastly, Brad shared the DE will be hosting a webinar relating to accelerating learning and how that relates social-emotional-behavioral health on February 10th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm (<https://educateiowa.gov/pk-12/future-ready-pk-12#:~:text=Webinar%20Recordings%20and%20Materials>).

Janee Harvey, Bureau Chief with ACFS, presented on Family First in Iowa. Janee shared that Family First restructures how the federal government spends money on child welfare to improve outcomes for children. Iowa was the 11th state with an approved Family First Prevention Plan. Over the past 5 years, Iowa has reduced the number of youths in group care by 48%, 55% of all children and youth in foster care are living with relatives or fictive kin, had a 20% reduction on the number of children and youth entering foster care, and has received more federal money

than any other state to support high quality legal representation for parents. Iowa has many efforts to prevent the need for removal through evidence-based family preservation services through committing to keeping children with their families, or in family settings. Iowa continues to evaluate existing pilot programs across the state, invest in primary prevention, establish post-discharge services for residential care, and make modifications to Iowa Code Chapter 232 including, language aligning least restrictive care efforts, extend foster care to 21 years of age, and clarifying definitions.

Director Kelly Garcia, Iowa Department of Human Services, shared an update that the department is providing technical assistance on the new CDC guidelines while ensuring the safety of clients in residential care. Director Garcia also shared the state has conducted a search for a medical director for the new health and human services agency. Director Garcia shared Chief Justice Christensen issued an order forming a juvenile justice taskforce to assist her in coming up with recommendations on how to better the juvenile justice system. Director Garcia will be participating in these efforts.

Director Garcia provided an update on the Health and Human Services Alignment work and continues to move forward on refining the functional organization chart. Throughout this process, more than 1,300 individuals have been providing feedback on this alignment effort and this feedback has been instrumental to the alignment. Director Garcia anticipates a bill this session to codify this alignment effort.

Rules Update

Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief of Division of Mental Health & Disability Services - Community, provided an update on administrative rule changes to Chapter 24. DHS accredits some mental health and disability service providers for both adult and children services, Chapter 24 houses the rules for this process. One change to Chapter 24 includes a brand-new division relating to community mental health centers (CMHC). Iowa Code 230A details what is required to be a CMHC and directs DHS to designate CMHCs. The additions to Chapter 24 will further define these parameters, clarify the CMHC designation process, ongoing oversight of CMHCs, and gives the MHDS Commission assurances on approving CMHC designation.

Strategic Planning

Shelley Horak, DHS Program Manager, continued conversations with the Children's Board on navigating their role as a board and identifying future goals for the board. The Children's Board reviewed the results of their last discussion, including reviewing their elevator speech, short and long-term measures of success, workgroup definitions, and identifying feedback loops. Shelley reviewed the Board's prioritized metrics and outcomes identifying that Outcome 2: all children are free of impairment from unaddressed behavioral health concerns or issues and Outcome 4: all children have a support system were the two highest priority outcomes. The Board had a discussion on keeping both Outcomes as priority outcomes voicing that with reframing of workgroups, hopefully forward progress can occur sooner and quicker than previously exercised.

Public Comment

None

Break

11:55 am to 12:40 pm

Sesame Street in Communities

Lisa Cushatt, Executive Director of Iowa ACEs 360, and Sarah Welch, Coordinator with The Iowa Alliance for Healthy Kids, presented on the work Iowa Alliance is currently doing in Iowa. The Iowa Alliance for Healthy Kids (www.IowaAllianceForHealthyKids.org) is a collaborative effort to increase understanding of social and emotional well-being and to use Sesame Street in Communities resources to promote early relational health with families and the healthy development of children ages 0-8. The Iowa Alliance for Healthy Kids connects with many provider networks, including health, early care and education, family support, and mental health providers. Sesame Street in Communities offers 300+ free resources created over decades with new content added monthly; resources on grief, parental addiction, divorce; many types of tools including printables, videos, games, books, and articles; and is a recognizable and credible brand. Key activities in Iowa include training (Abby's Ambassadors train providers and parents), programmatic implementation (materials, books, lesson plans, activity bags that are unique to Iowa), awareness (town hall for leaders; social media messages for caregivers), and impact (evaluate successful strategies to replicate statewide).

Metrics Subcommittee Update

Brad Niebling shared an update on the metrics and outcomes subcommittee. Following the Board's request a few months back to collect, analyze and display data relating to the Board's priority metrics, Brad reviewed state/district/school level data reported by the DE. Brad prefaced that data might have gaps or discrepancies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Brad reported on public school K-12 enrollment, four-year graduation rates, participation, and capacity to participate in extra-curricular activities, suspension/expulsion practices, average daily attendance rate, chronic absenteeism rate, student absenteeism, and students who reported having support from adults or other students at school.

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 also reviewed their role, system evaluation to inform decisions and to provide recommendations to DHS, and how that relates to moving the strategic plan forward.

Public Comment

Liz Cox thanked the Board for their discussion and appreciated the update from Iowa ACEs. Liz shared she was saddened by the data shared today around schools and believes the MDHS Regions and AEA's have a role to play in connecting with students, especially during this pandemic and potentially post-pandemic time, to ensure students can identify an adult at school whom they find supportive.

Adjourn

Brad Niebling and Marissa Eyanson thanked the Board for their attendance and participation. The meeting adjourned at 2:19 pm.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Torie Keith.