

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting
TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin	
Sarah Berndt	June Klein-Bacon
Diane Brecht	Kathy Norris
Teresa Daubitz	Jack Seward, Jr.
Mike Fidgeon	Dr. Ken Wayne
Don Kass	Richard Whitaker

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Dettmann	Terri Steinke
Sen. Jeff Edler	Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott
Sue Gehling	Russell Wood
Rep. Megan Srinivas	

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Ann Meyer, State Representative	Jacob Appel, Senate Democratic Caucus
Brenda Erickson, Plains Area Mental Health	Jacob Martin, NASW
Brenda Kodem, Sioux Rivers MHDS	Kelsey Thien, House Democrats
Brooke Lovelace, DD Council	Leisa Mayer, Rolling Hills
Carrie Malone, Iowa HHS	Libby Reekers, Tama Co. MH Advocate
Chelsey Scanlan, Iowa Compass	Mary A. Peterson, Robert Young Center
Christina Eggink-Postma, Seasons Center	Melissa Loehr, CCNIA
Connie Fanselow, Iowa HHS	Natalie Ginty, Iowa Legislature
Denise Rathman, NASW-IA	Sherri Nielsen, Easter Seals
Devon McClurken, NAMI	Susan Seehase, IACP
Dylan Keller, Senate Republican Caucus	Todd Lange, Amerigroup
Flora A. Schmidt, IBHA	Wendy DePhillips, Iowa HHS
Ginger Kozak, Iowa HHS	

Materials Referenced:

June 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
Seasons Center CMHC Designation
2023 MHDS Commission Cost Increase Letter 6.26.23 - DRAFT

Welcome and Introductions

Diane Brecht, Vice Chair, notified the Commission members that Russell Wood, Chair, wouldn't be at the meeting. Diane called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with 11 voting members attending virtually.

Review and Vote on Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane Brecht inquired if any Commission members had questions or changes to the June 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Sarah Berndt noted an error in the section on Additional

Discussion/Planning for Future Meetings. Sarah noted that when listing the members of the Cost Increase and Communications Committee, it should be Sarah Berndt, not Brecht. Diane entertained a motion to approve the June 15, 2023, meeting minutes with this change. Sarah Berndt motioned to approve the minutes with this change and was seconded by Jack Seward, Jr. There was no additional discussion by the Commissioners. The motion passed and the minutes were approved with Don Kass abstaining.

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Application for Designation – Seasons Center

Ginger Kozak, HHS, introduced herself and reviewed the Seasons Center CMHC Designation document regarding their request to be designated the CMHC for Sioux County. Ginger provided a brief overview of the points that determined the decision to recommend Season Center's application for designation. Christina Eggink-Postma, Seasons Center, shared information on school-based services. There was discussion regarding contested applications, and the MHDS Region's choice to recommend designation for Seasons Center versus the other applicant. There was discussion regarding Season Center's staffing in Sioux County, as well as other workforce issues, including the Center's strategic plan for workforce development.

Diane Brecht entertained a motion to approve or deny the application for Seasons Center to be designated the CMHC for Sioux County. Don Kass motioned to approve Season's Center application to be the designated CMHC for Sioux County and was seconded by Jack Seward, Jr. There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed with Kathy Norris abstaining.

Review and Vote on Cost Increase Letter

Wendy DePhillips presented a draft of the cost increase letter to the Commission. The Commission recommended increasing the overall inflation rate to approximately 4% to reflect what the percentage was at the time of the approval of the letter. The Commission noted an increase in population of 7,438 from last year's letter using population data from the U.S. Census Report for 2021 on July 1, 2021, referenced in last year's letter, and from the U.S. Census Report for 2022 on July 1, 2022. The Commission recommended changes to the fourth bullet point under recommendation number 3 to add language "in order to improve outcomes and reduce costs to the system." The Commission recommended changes to the introductory paragraph to simplify it and make it more precise.

Diane Brecht entertained a motion to approve the 2023 Cost Increase Letter as amended. Sarah Berndt motioned and was seconded by Teresa Daubitz. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed.

Children's Behavioral Health System State Board Update

Rich Whitaker reported that the Children's Behavioral Health System State Board met on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at the Lucas Building. Rich reviewed the highlights of the meeting.

- There was an HHS update from Marissa Eyanson and a Department of Education update from Barb Anderson.
- A presentation was given by the Iowa Students for Tobacco Education and Prevention (ISTEP), which is a student run organization. ISTEP has created a commercial and are

very proactive to help youth recognize the dangers and real-life risks of using tobacco and vaping products.

- Bettendorf School District in Eastern Iowa presented on the Bettendorf Therapeutic Classroom including their approach, which contains a model of neurocognitive development and works to address various aspects of brain development through their program. There were questions regarding how replicable this model could be across the state as it was a more clinical model. Bettendorf felt this model could be replicated in other districts statewide.
- Iowa Department of Public Safety's Safe + Sound program presented to the Children's Board. It is part of the Governor's School Safety Board, focused on school safety and vulnerability assessments for K-12 school buildings, ensuring there are funds available for radios for all schools, digital applications and software for reporting intelligence, and active shooter trainings. This program also provides youth with a phone app that allows for anonymous reporting regarding guns, self-harm and other forms of victimization and threatening behavior in school with the goal of ending school violence. Reports can be made 24/7. More information can be found at: [Safe and Sound Homepage | Iowa Department of Public Safety](#).

HHS/BH Update

Connie Fanselow, HHS introduced herself noting that she was covering for Theresa Armstrong who was out of the office.

988 in Iowa

Connie shared that the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline celebrated its first anniversary on July 16, 2023. Connie noted some of the year one successes noting that there were 31,002 Iowa contacts (65% calls, 21% chats, and 15% texts) during the first year with 80% of those calls answered by Iowa centers with an answer rate of 89%. The goal is 90%. It was noted that 98% of calls were resolved by the trained 988 counselor, with the other 2% needing further intervention (911 or Mobile Response).

The 988 Mobile Response Warm Handoff Guidelines were developed and implemented on December 1, 2022. All mobile response teams are participating in warm handoffs. The 911/988 Pilot Project has been initiated and is in progress. All 911 dispatchers in the three participating counties (Black Hawk, Muscatine, and Johnson) have been trained in identifying situations where the individual would benefit from 988 crisis services and how to transfer calls. Black Hawk and Muscatine counties started transfers June 27th and Johnson County started July 5th. There have been no transfers to date.

Next steps for 988 include a major marketing campaign including a partnership with the major universities in Iowa that will include marketing at sporting events; expansion of 911/988 pilot project; strengthening the connection between 988 and crisis services statewide as well as coordination between 988 crisis services and certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHC). Connie went on to share specific quotes from individuals served by the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline centers in Iowa.

There was discussion regarding clarification of data and marketing happening in specific regions. There was a request for data on veteran calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

RFP for Consultant Services for Iowa's Behavioral Health Crisis Services

A Request for Proposals (RFP) – MHDS-23-033 Consultant Services for Iowa's Behavioral Health Crisis System was posted on June 12, 2023, with the notice of award scheduled for August 29, 2023. The goal is to shift crisis system from a mental health crisis system to a behavioral health crisis system that incorporates substance use and seamlessly connects individuals to needed services.

Service Delivery Alignment

HHS is working with Health Management Associates to study the delivery of HHS programs. Currently, programs often work in silos which are cumbersome, confusing, and inefficient for those we serve and community partners. The vision of this project is to create consistency in access to HHS; use the expertise and passion of HHS workforce and local partners; make better use of funding; improve how HHS works with local partners, and better reflect the evolution of our state's resources and population.

The assessment will identify current structures and historical context; existing operational capabilities and gaps; funding and resources available in the current system; linkages between service areas in the current delivery system and Medicaid programs; target priority population (including number of individuals current being served and identify decision makers and partners involved in the service delivery systems. Connie noted that there are 19 statewide programs included in the study. Town hall meetings have been held to gather broad stakeholder engagement with additional virtual meetings scheduled on July 20th and 21st. Connie also noted that a stakeholder input survey would be released in the next week as another way to gather feedback from partners, clients, and stakeholders. Recommendations are targeted to be made in October 2023. More information can be found on the HHS website at: [HHS System Alignment | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#).

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)

Connie provided an overview of CCBHCs noting that they are a specially designed clinics that provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use services. CCBHCs serve anyone regardless of diagnosis or insurance status and meet certification criteria. CCBHCs provide or coordinate the majority nine core services consisting of crisis mental health services including 24-hour mobile crisis teams, emergency crisis intervention, and crisis stabilization; screening, assessment, and diagnosis; patient-centered treatment planning or similar processes; outpatient mental health and substance use services; outpatient clinical primary care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and health risk; targeted case management; psychiatric rehabilitation services; peer support, counseling, and family support services, and intensive community-based mental health care for members of the armed forces and veterans.

HHS is currently working on a CCBHC Planning Grant to apply to be part of the CCBHC Demonstration in March 2024. The Demonstration is a 4-year program that includes enhanced federal funding for CCBHCs certified in Iowa. More information can be found at [Transforming Behavioral Healthcare in Iowa: CCBHC Planning Grant | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#). Email questions or feedback to: IowaCCBHC@dhs.state.ia.us. A CCBHC

Stakeholder Engagement Committee has been formed and meets monthly. These meetings are open to the public. Focus groups will meet across the state the week of July 17th, with virtual focus groups meeting on July 24th and 26th.

HHS Alignment and State Reorganization

HHS Alignment and State Reorganization became effective July 1, 2023. The Department on Aging and other state agency divisions are now a part of HHS. With the addition of the Department on Aging, the Behavioral Health and Disability Service Division is in the process of being divided into two divisions: the Division of Behavioral Health and the Division of Aging and Disability Services.

Zach Rhein was recently announced as the Director of the new Division of Aging and Disability Services. He has 20 plus years' experience in federal and state government and most recently was the Director of Programs at the Iowa Department on Aging.

MHDS Regions

Southeast Iowa (SEIL) MHDS Region and South Central Behavioral Health Region have merged effective July 1, 2023. The CROSS Regions has contracted with the Heart of Iowa (HOI) Region to perform its administrative functions; however CROSS and HOI will not be merging.

Intensive Residential Service Home (IRSH)

There are currently three IRSH providers open in the state and four additional providers with an IRSH program in development. These providers are Lakes Life Skills (open), Trivium Life Services (open), First Resources (open), Inspiring Lives (in development), Candeo (in development, 43 North (in development), and Elevate (in development.) All sites except Inspiring Lives plan to start serving people this summer, which could take the number of IRSH beds in Iowa from a current 11 to 34 later this year. Abbe Health is in the very early stage of development in eastern Iowa. They were awarded a grant by the MHDS East Central and Eastern Iowa Regions. The goal is to develop 120 beds statewide.

Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery Employment (ASPIRE)

Iowa now has 8 providers of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) employment services operating in 32 counties, with expansion plans for another 10 counties.

Managed Care Organizations (MCO)

Molina Healthcare joined Amerigroup and Iowa Total Care as a statewide Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) in Iowa on July 1, 2023. Some Medicaid members have received notice that they were to be moved to Molina membership with the option of going back to their previous MCO if they prefer. Members who were not moved to Molina have the option of selecting Molina.

DOJ and Community Integration

HHS continues to work with the Department of Justice (DOJ) on reaching an agreement for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act) CRIPA violations. The current census at Glenwood Resource Center is 77.

Iowa Medicaid

Iowa Medicaid holds monthly virtual town hall meetings with providers and members to gather feedback on the current state of the program and how to improve, as well as to share information on current and future program projects and improvements. A separate town hall meeting is held for providers and members on the fourth Thursday of each month. More information on how to access and register for the town halls can be found at: [Iowa Medicaid Town Halls | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#). Specific questions can be emailed to IMETownHall@dhs.state.ia.us. To view recordings and materials from past town hall meetings and other public events such as listening sessions, go to: [Iowa Medicaid Virtual Meeting Archive | Iowa Department of Health and Human Services](#). Medicaid Information Letter (IL) #2468 was released and announced that HCBS Waiver Services are being expanded to permanently include Medical Day Care for Children and Adult Day Care to the HCBS Waivers Brain Injury (BI), Children's Mental Health (CMH), Intellectual Disability (ID), and Health and Disability (HD) Waivers. The new Iowa Medicaid Dashboard was also shared with the Commission. The dashboard can be found at: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-Medicaid-dashboard>.

Additional Discussion/Planning for Future Meetings

Members were reminded that the next meeting will be Thursday, August 17, 2023. This will be a hybrid meeting with Commission member can attend in-person at the Lucas State Office Building, 6th Floor, Director's ICN or can attend via Zoom. The agenda has not been finalized but there is a plan to have a panel of providers that have received CCBHC Expansion Grants so that they can talk about their program and the changes the organization made with the grant. It was noted that the August meeting will be the last hybrid meeting until the Hoover and Lucas State Buildings are renovated and reopen.

Public Comment

Devon McClurken, Executive Director, Office of Recovery Services (ORS) notified the MHDS Commission that the results of the Community Feedback Survey were up on the ORS website: [Homepage - Iowa Office of Recovery Services \(orsiowa.org\)](http://www.ors.iowa.gov)

Adjourn

Diane Brecht entertained a motion to adjourn. Teresa Daubitz motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Ken Wayne. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.