

## Council on Health and Human Services Meeting Minutes AUGUST 10, 2023

COUNCIL MEMBERS	HHS STAFF
Rebecca Peterson ✓	Director Kelly Garcia ✓
Donald Macfarlane	Matt Highland ✓
Sam Wallace ✓	Sarah Reisetter ✓
Jack Willey ✓	Zach Rhein ✓
Monika Jindal ✓	Jean Slaybaugh ✓
Kay Fisk ✓	Sarah Ekstrand ✓
Andrew Allen ✓	Elisabeth Matney ✓
Sandra McGrath ✓	Cory Turner ✓
Samantha Rozeboom ✓	Erin Drinnin ✓
	Janee Harvey ✓
	Marissa Eyanson ✓

EX-OFFICIO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS
Senator Jeff Edler
Senator Sarah Trone Garriott

### CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair, Rebecca Peterson called the Council meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. via zoom teleconference.

### ROLL CALL

All Council members were in attendance, except Dr. Donald Macfarlane. Ex-Officio members were not present.

Sam Wallace moved to approve minutes and Jack Willey seconded this. The council members said “aye” no changes or issues. Minutes were approved.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Garcia gave updates from the Senior Leadership meeting and the HHS Leadership Retreat held on August 9, 2023 where [Dr. Chan Helman](#) from the HOPE center in Oklahoma presented.

Dr. Helman is world renowned on the science of hope. He feels that the key is that hope itself is a cognitive function, not a feeling. Once HHS leadership is trained, they would then train their staff.

The director gave an update on alignment is the HHS work assessment. This included a survey that went out to stakeholders, partners, and customers.

As a part of the waiver redesign project, they are attending “roadshow meetings.” Using community-based resources as often as possible. The new waivers will be branded HOPE.

- Amerigroup has a new president, Teresa Hursey, from New Jersey.

Looking at our Facilities, the department of corrections, Director Skinner visited CCUSO. The Cherokee campus hosted their internal audit as required by court order.

Director Garcia met with 11 county sheriffs. They discussed capacity building and having beds for those in need. This will likely come up in the next legislative session.

Partnering with the Department of Justice we are working on the ADA consent decree. It's been a positive effort. A court ordered monitor will be at the training school in the next few weeks. We are hoping for complete compliance.

The Division Director of Wellbeing and Protection, Janee Harvey and Public Service Manager, Ryan Paige presented childcare assistance news. Efforts are being made to help parents who could go back to work if they had childcare. Other initiatives are being made as school goes back into session to continually assess and manage our capacity.

Lori Frick met with foster care CEO's.

HHS hosted West Virginia's HHS department, who had requested to see our changes and see if they could also use these methods in the future. With Iowa HHS leading the effort.

We are working on an Iowa health care collaborative medical caps bill, for better access, and quality of care. There will be 4 meetings in the fall on this, then we will prepare a report to give to legislature.

Glenwood's transition is in the final year. Only 24 clients are currently housed there. While we look for permanent placement, clients may lily pad to short term placement and assistance.

Law enforcement needs to have a clear line of what they should be doing with individuals in need of emergent assistance but have not committed a crime. Assisting them and getting them where they need to be. We don't want the emergency room to be the go-to. We need a line of action. While finding the barriers and obstacles and minding the stagiary requirements.

The HHS Council's role on ECI moving forward will just be to receive reports and milestone markers. The Governor and legislators will make the decisions (change in code). The council will be able to review and give feedback.

## **STATE MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Division Director for Public Health and State Medical Director, Dr. Robert Kruse gave an update on the rise of syphilis numbers. He has been working with CDC partners (in the great plains area) on this.

There has been an uptick in syphilis transferred from mother to child. 21 cases this year. 1 in 100 babies have this per year. There are efforts to do outreach to the mothers who may need care for the syphilis issues. Those who perhaps are not going in for regular pre-natal exams.

They are asking doctors to perform 3 tests for this during each pregnancy. Guidelines used to require this only for at risk people, this will be for all pregnancies. It is a noninvasive and simple test.

This is a system wide changes for clinics, doctors, etc. and is making a great impact.

Iowa HHS is working on a reporting order for Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD). On Sept 1 the reporting order will be put in place.

HIV viral suppression in Iowa is way up. (this means they have an undetectable viral load, cannot transmit with partners, and are able to live their best possible healthy lives.) Iowa leads the nation with 81.9%, we are one of only two states who were above 80%.

BOLD grant for Alzheimer's. We received a \$480,000 grant focused on those who are dealing with dementia, as well as their caregivers.

## **CCBHC**

Division Director of Behavioral Health, Marissa Eyanson presented on CCBHCs

HHS received a Planning grant. It will work toward systemic changes. It was awarded in March 2023. It is a one year planning grant. This includes building pathways at a community level with spaces and initiatives we can use here in Iowa. These need to be highly visible so that those who need it, can find it and get to it.

Once the planning grant year is up, we could receive 2-year funding for this project. There will only be 10 (2-year) grants available. Details about the processes that will be undertaken to do this can be found in the attached PowerPoint.

You can also see details about this initiative on our website.

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/mhds/mental-health/ccbhcc>

At this site you can see who the providers are, as well as an FAQ's page. This will answer the most common questions that have been received. You can also find upcoming meeting information there.

Some concerns we hope to look into are.

- Transportation for Clients
- Capacity (for administrating and for the providers)
- What can and can't we do to help. Where is our limit?
- How do we make sure this comes into being, not just planned?

## **COUNCIL BUDGET RESPONSIBILITIES**

Chief Financial Officer, Jess Benson reviewed council budget responsibilities. (PowerPoint attached) September will be the HHS Council budget meeting. We ask that the council reviews and approve the budget. Then the Governor will make her recommendations to legislature.

Once reviewed and approved the public hearing information will too be submitted to the Governor.

Jess Benson will share packets with the council in September to give them time to examine them before the meeting.

## **HEALTH EQUITY ASSESSMENT**

Division Director of Strategic Operations, Matt Highland provided an overview of the division. With the addition of HHS's guiding principle of equity, Health Equity is a top priority for the agency. There is a need to assess the current skill set and capacity of staff and leadership to effectively embed an equity-focused lens into all internal functions and externally facing programs and services.

To do this, we want an assessment of the workforce's perceived knowledge, skills, abilities, and developmental opportunities. This will allow the Office of Health Equity, Human Resources, and other administrative functions to identify specific strategies to increase the capacity of our team, while developing new strategies to attract, recruit, and retain a diverse and skilled workforce.

Iowa HHS will be soliciting proposals to select a Contractor to conduct a comprehensive assessment of current practices, workforce skills, and initiatives that support integration of Health Equity into our programs and services.

This assessment will provide recommendations for agency improvement. The overarching goal of this assessment is to ensure that Iowa HHS is acting on our commitments to reduce health disparities of populations served through targeted interventions and practices.

This will be a comprehensive assessment of current practices, workforce skills, and initiatives that support integration of Health Equity practices and measurements into programs and services. It will focus on key performance areas including organizational culture, management capacity, workforce Health Equity skills and readiness, language access and translation practices and supports, disability inclusion, racial and ethnic approaches to health, and data equity needs.

Timeline:

- Will issue notice to TSB followed by issuing the RFP Next week.
- Proposals due Oct 20
- Contract begins January of 24
- Recommendations due Summer of 2024

We've been working closely with our contracting team, gotten input from across the Department and We're really excited about this effort.

## **COUNCIL UPDATES**

Sam Wallace had the opportunity to meet with hospital administrators. He let HHS and the council know that they wanted to pass on how pleased they are with all the work we are doing to help them.

Kay Fisk suggested that with the change to the nature of the council (since the merger) it would be beneficial to meet in person to introduce all council members and HHS Leadership.

Sandy McGrath said that the alignment was well needed but has heard concerns from local officials that local level boards of health unstable and potentially unable to meet the needs of all 99 counties.

The worry is that services will be more distant and local level might be harder to get funding and access too. We are looking for the gaps and looking to assess and manage those issues.

It is important to get the right type of treatment to those in need. When it's mental health issue, it can't always be helped with general practitioners.

Andrew Allen is pleased to see the willingness he sees in HHS's organization and is encouraged, but still a bit nervous.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Sam Wallace and seconded by Samantha Rozeboom to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:39am.

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Laura Myers  
Council Secretary