

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 28, 2023, 3:00-4:30 PM CENTRAL TIME

Summary of Meeting Themes:

Mathematica provided a brief overview of the three primary recommendations from the community-based services evaluation and walked through the planned activities for the community-based services redesign. More information is available on the Iowa HHS website: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/CBS-Redesign>.

- Planned activities will:
 - Address the waiver waitlist by:
 - Developing streamlined screening
 - Establishing processes that prioritize waiver slots for people who are at highest risk of entering a facility
 - Align community-based services with the needs of Iowans by:
 - Creating a universal assessment tool to determine whether someone is eligible to receive waiver services
 - Changing waivers and waiver services offered
 - Increase access to community-based services by:
 - Focusing on case manager training and case manager ratios
 - Identifying resources to help people access services
 - Improving system navigation
- Mathematica also outlined expectations and plans for how the steering committee will support project work.
 - Committee members agreed on the need to focus on forward-looking solutions rather than past challenges and reflect on the perspectives of all Iowans. They agreed to assume everyone has positive intent and approach problems and new ideas with curiosity and questions to support learning.
- Committee members reported they are excited to work together and recommend solutions that will address system-level issues to help current and future waiver members.
- Committee members asked whether proposed solutions might require either state or federal approval. Mathematica and Iowa HHS will work closely to anticipate this and engage with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other partners on changes to the waiver service package.

- Committee members noted ongoing challenges accessing services because the workforce is not large or reliable enough. Members mentioned that the state provider lists may be outdated. They suggested developing a website for caregivers to advertise their services and reach out to members directly.
- Committee members said lowans need education about resources available to them outside of the waivers, such as local organizations and county services, that can provide additional assistance. Iowa HHS agreed and said work to make system navigation easier and clearer is underway.
 - Committee members asked how to determine which region a person resides in, to access Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS). Mathematica provided a [link to the map](#) that shows the regions by county.
- Committee members highlighted that differences between services available on each waiver create inequities. Committee members also pointed to flaws in waiver design, providing the example that the home and vehicle modification allowance in the elderly waiver is outdated and too low.
- Mathematica raised the escalation pathway document, which committee members can use to ask HHS questions about specific situations or topics that are important but fall beyond the scope of the community-based services redesign work.
- Mathematica ended by confirming that the steering committee will meet the last Tuesday of the month, from 3:00-4:30. Mathematica will send the agenda and slides in advance.