

Iowa Community-Based Services Evaluation Redesign

Steering Committee

Tuesday May 30, 2023

Results from our April discussion

- **What is your reaction to the concept of a single screening tool across waivers for the purposes of the Point-in-Time screening?**
 - Members had a mostly positive reaction to the use of a single screening tool but were concerned with a one size fits all approach.
- **What do you think about the priority domains?**
 - Members suggested adding questions to assess the age/health status of an individual's caretaker, social determinants of health, level of intensity, level of crisis, and risk of injury.
- **What factors do you think are important for HHS to keep in mind as it moves towards implementing the point-in-time screening?**
 - Members emphasized the need for periodic screening, suggested looking at tools already used by MCOs, and requiring standardized training for staff administering the Point-in-Time screening.

Results from our April discussion

- **When thinking about a Medicaid member who is waiting for a waiver slot, how do they find out about other available community-based services?**
 - Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), friends and family, social workers, support groups, county-based resources, and advocacy organizations.
- **In the current system, how would they go about accessing those community-based services?**
 - Members noted that most people don't know where to go to find or access services in the current system but shared potential channels to share information including monthly resource fairs in the Central/Southwest Iowa counties, rural county listservs, and Title V family navigators.

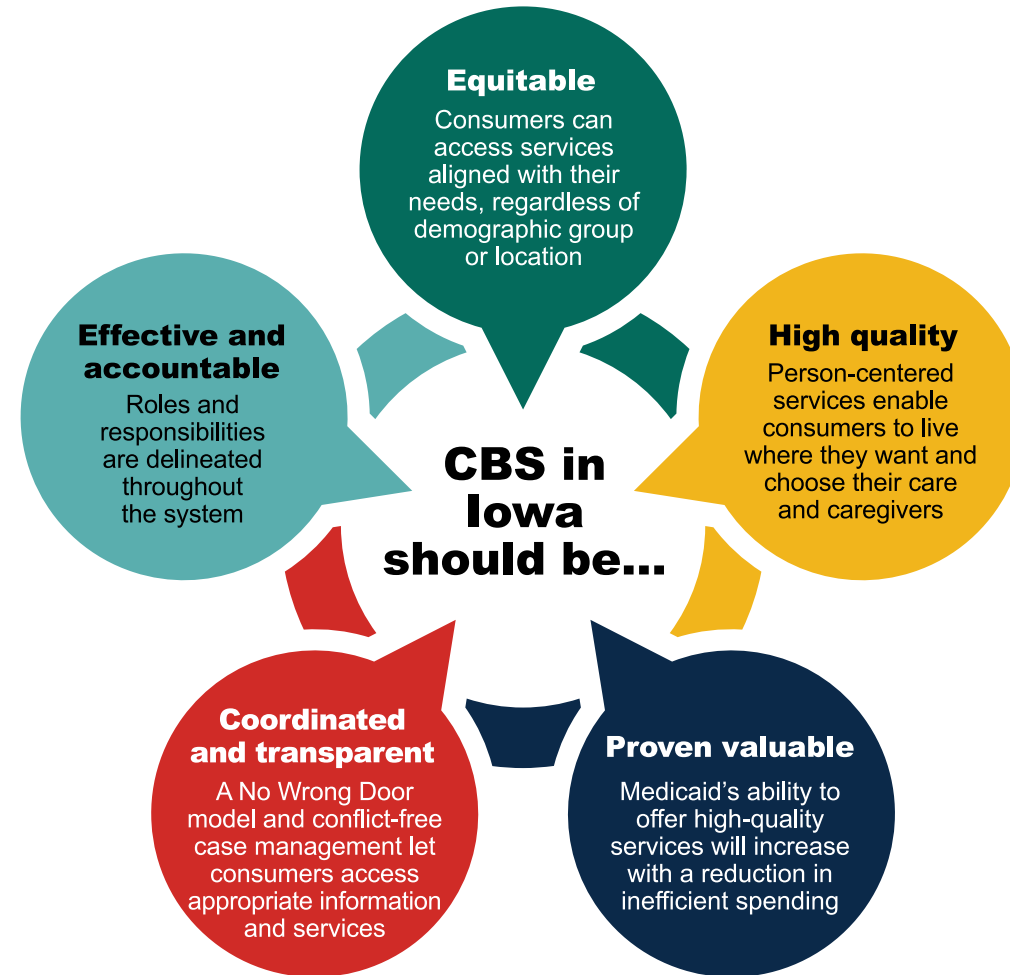


People and Services: Waiver Redesign

Iowa's current waiver service package

- **Includes seven programs with community-based services (CBS) based on diagnosis**
 - Difficult to get clear, correct and consistent information and direction
 - Gaps in the types of services available within and across programs
 - E.g., transportation, services to help people leave nursing facilities, crisis intervention and support, residential options
- **Provider availability is limited and staff shortages are common**
- **Limited use of self-directed services**
- **Supports are disrupted and delayed as needs change**
 - Due to transition between settings and programs or changes in case manager

Guiding principles for Iowa's CBS system



Waiver service package redesign goals and principles

▪ Goal

- Simplify community-based services (CBS) to build on the strengths of Iowans with disabilities and address their needs and preferences across the lifespan.

▪ Principles to affirm and uphold during redesign

- All Iowans have choice and access to supports and services.
- Iowans with disabilities exist within the context of their families and communities.
- All people have life experiences as they age and grow. This is no different or less important to Iowans who need supports to live their best lives. These experiences exist within “domains”:
 - Daily Life
 - Employment/Retirement
 - Community including Social Connection and Spirituality
 - Safety and Security
 - Healthy Living
 - Advocacy, Empowerment, and Engagement
 - Case Management

Steps in waiver service package redesign

- **Identify what works well and not so well (February - September 2023)**
- **Create a new waiver service package (August - October 2023)**
- **HHS, Steering Committee, and focus group review (October – November 2023)**
- **Cost analysis (November – December 2023)**
- **Public comment period (January – March 2024)**

Waiver service package redesign: February – October 2023

- **Identify what works well and not so well (February - September 2023)**
 - Using what we learned during the evaluation phase
 - Analyzing available data for trends in service use including areas of unmet need
 - Exploring the differences between waiver programs
 - Talking with, and learning from, people who use community-based services, their families, advocates, providers and case managers
 - Finding new and innovative ways to address areas of challenge
- **Create a new waiver service package (August - October 2023)**
 - Simplified from seven programs to three or fewer without overlapping eligibility criteria
 - New services to address gap areas
 - Revised services to improve consistency and address gap areas

Considerations

- **Decision points impacting service package redesign include:**
 - **Waiver structure:** Single program or programs separated by age (child/adult) or tiered need?
 - **Case management:** Waiver service or an administrative function?
 - **Person-centered planning:** How to leverage public and private sources of support?
 - **Self-direction:** Change or expand service offerings?
 - **Provider capacity:** How can we innovate to broaden capacity (e.g., via provider qualifications or technology)?
 - **Maintaining a focus on critical needs:** How can we address Iowans transitioning between settings, aging caregivers, co-occurring needs that often result in crises, rural access issues, etc.?



Questions?