

# Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation

DECEMBER 2022

## BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION HF 2507 – JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was signed into law in February 2018. Family First provides new directives on services eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement by shifting funding traditionally used to support foster care placements into prevention services to:

- Reduce entry into foster care through evidence-based family preservation services.
- Increase the use of family-based placements.
- Decrease the use of congregate care settings.
- Improve access to high-quality residential care for children and youth who have acute mental and behavioral needs that prevent them from living safely in a home environment.

Iowa was an early adopter of Family First and was the 11<sup>th</sup> state in the nation with an approved Family First Prevention Plan. HF 2507, passed by the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and signed into law, helps continue this work by enacting several revisions to Iowa Code Chapter 232 to align the chapter with Family First, additional federal regulations, and case law to create consistency throughout various sections of Chapter 232 and assist in clarifying roles. The revisions fit into the following three categories:

1. Technical changes
  - a. New or modifications to definitions
  - b. Reorganization of sections
  - c. Aligning sections with current case law
2. Family First related changes
  - a. Adding definitions and processes that include putative fathers and siblings
  - b. Priority placement
  - c. Weighing the harm of removal
3. Substantive changes
  - a. Modification to the definition of guardian ad litem and responsibilities
  - b. Limits incidents of *dangerous substance* and *denial of critical care* to within the last five years

- c. Changes in payment and reporting structure for Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) and shelter services
- d. Graduated sanctions and court-ordered services will transition from HHS to Department of Justice, Juvenile Court Services by July 1, 2023.

Implementing HF 2507 will require key stakeholder feedback, changes to administrative rules, changes to HHS manual and forms, and training for HHS workers and contractors.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE & ACTION PLAN

#	Milestone	Target Completion Date	Completion Date	Implementation Update Description
1	Activities and communication for July 1 for intake, assessment, and foster care to 21 changes	7/1/22	7/1/22	Manual, form, and system changes were made for factoring changes related to 5-year limit for DCC and Dangerous substance as well as Safe Haven changes.
2	DHS contract changes	7/1/22	7/1/22	Contract amendment effective 7/1/22 which raised QRTP rates to \$267/day for occupied beds and \$200/day for unoccupied beds and shelter beds to \$224/day.
3	Training for HHS employees and contractors	9/30/22	9/30/22	Multidisciplinary training collaboration meeting between HHS, Coalition, JCS, and CIP met in July to coordinate training efforts. HHS training materials have been updated.
4	Public awareness campaign	9/30/22	9/30/22	During August and September, there were eleven in-person presentations given across the state, one virtual presentation given to the centralized intake unit, and one virtual presentation that was open to stakeholders statewide. The virtual presentation was posted to the website. <a href="https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/tools-trainings-resources">https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/tools-trainings-resources</a>
5	Changes to Administrative Rules	12/31/22		Administrative Rule changes are routing for 441-156, 441-175, and 441-200. HHS is collaborating regarding rule changes needed to transfer Graduated Sanctions and Juvenile Detention Home Funds.
6	HHS manual and forms changes related to Administrative Rule changes	2/28/23		

## BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

### HF 2252 – CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM REFORM

HF 2252 impacts foster care, adoption, and dependent adult programs. HF 2522, signed into law on May 24, 2022, does the following:

- Amends the definition of child and payment language in Iowa Code Chapter 234 to extend foster care from age 18 to age 21 for foster family home and supervised apartment living settings.
- Requires the inclusion of sibling information in the adoption petition following a termination of parental rights under Chapter 232; the development of a plan for ongoing sibling contact if it is in the best interest of the children; and sibling notice of hearing for any child to be adopted when siblings are not placed together.
- Allows adult adoptees who were adopted following a termination of parental rights pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 232 access to their juvenile court report and termination of parental rights adoption records.

Regarding dependent adults, this legislation adds language to Iowa Code 235B to allow HHS to share information on the initiation and status of a dependent adult abuse assessment or founded dependent adult abuse assessment with specified financial entities to protect the dependent adult’s resources.

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE & ACTION PLAN

#	Milestone	Target Completion Date	Completion Date	Implementation Update Description
1	Activities and communication for July 1 for intake, assessment, and foster care to 21 changes	7/1/22	7/1/22	Manual, form, and system changes were made to include changes to communication with financial institutions for dependent adults. A temporary process for foster care to 21 was developed pending administrative rule changes. Communication went out the week of 6/27/22.
2	Changes to Administrative Rules	12/31/22		Stakeholder feedback is being incorporated into the proposed Administrative Rules changes for routing by the end of December. HHS staff has specifically been working with Activate Youth Engagement (AYE) to incorporate youth voice into Administrative Rule changes related to Foster Care to 21.
3	DHHS manual and forms changes related to Administrative Rule changes	2/28/23		

4	Training for HHS employees and contractors	9/30/22	9/30/22	Multidisciplinary training collaboration meeting between HHS, Coalition, JCS, and CIP met July to coordinate training initiatives. HHS training materials have been updated.
5	Public awareness campaign	9/30/22	9/30/22	During August and September, there were eleven in-person presentations given across the state, one virtual presentation given to the centralized intake unit, and one virtual presentation that was open to stakeholders statewide. The virtual presentation was posted to the website. <a href="https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/tools-trainings-resources">https://dhs.iowa.gov/child-welfare/tools-trainings-resources</a>

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