



**Hawki Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, August 22, 2022**

<b>Hawki Board Members</b>	<b>Iowa Medicaid</b>
Mary Nelle Trefz, Chair – present	Elizabeth Matney, Director
Angela Burke Boston – present	Amela Alibasic
Jim Donoghue – present	Julie Lovelady
Mike Stopulos –	Rebecca Curtiss
Angela Doyle Scar – present	Lynh Patterson
Mary Scieszinski – present	Tashina Hornaday
Shawn Garrington – present	Emily Eppens
Senator Nate Boulton –	Shelley Horak
Senator Mark Costello –	
Representative Shannon Lundgren –	
	<b>Guests</b>
	Addie Trueblood, DDIA
	John Hedgecoth, Amerigroup
	Kristin Pendegraft, ITC
	Jean Johnson, IDPH
	Lindsay Paulson, Maximus
	Kelli Soyer
	Eric Richardson
	Josh Carpenter, IDA
	Becki Wedemeier
	Mikki Stier
	LaBridgette Tensley
	Chaney Yeast, Blank Children’s Hospital

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board Chair Mary Nelle Trefz called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM via Zoom. Chair Trefz conducted a roll call, and the list above reflects the attendance. A quorum was established.

### **Approval of the Hawki Board Meeting Minutes**

Chair Trefz called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2022, meeting. The motion carried and the Board approved the minutes.

### **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **New Business**

Chair Trefz asked how the Hawki Board and connected agencies can assist the state with the unwinding of the public health emergency (PHE). Amela Alibasic, Iowa Medicaid, stated that Iowa Medicaid is developing communications tool kits for members and providers that will assist with this process.

### **Hawki Board Annual Report**

Tashina Hornaday, Iowa Medicaid, provided a summary of the report. She briefly touched on each section of the report, including a summarized history, key characteristics of the program, budget, COVID-19, outreach, structure of the board of directors, and several attachments, including the program organizational chart, information on referral sources, and current budget data. Chair Trefz asked the Board to weigh in on the annual report itself, and if any sections could be removed or moved to another document. Chair Trefz suggested that the history portion be removed, as it does not change annually, and that a section be added addressing the Board's charge of providing recommendations to the governor and legislature. Angie Doyle Scar suggested keeping a brief high-level history in the report to provide context, and adding testimonials to the outreach portion. Jim Donoghue recommended that the history portion be moved to the program website as it's a natural place for people to turn to look for resources. Chair Trefz added that it's important to capture the work the Board has done over the past year, which would include the vision, mission, and areas of focus. Angie added that it may be advantageous to include geographically localized data for policymakers and other stakeholders, as well as generalized data that focuses on health outcomes and metrics. Mary Scieszinski proposed a statement in the report for those not familiar with the program stating that Iowa's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is known as Hawki.

### **Strategic Planning Discussion**

Shelley Horak, Iowa Medicaid, lead this portion of the discussion. Shelley shared a document based on Board feedback that communicates the Board's strategic plan. She also offered a brief outline of the Board's strategic discussions over the last several months and how they lead to the creation of the document. Shelley touched on major areas including managed care organization (MCO) relations, recommendations to the governor and legislature, educational opportunities, and guiding principles for assessing conditions and outcomes. Shelley also proposed a new meeting format that would incorporate these new topics into future meetings. She then asked for the Board's feedback in determining a list of potential educational topics for 2023, presenting a list of suggested topics and asking Board members to prioritize them. Angie, Jim, and Angela Burke Boston suggested that the Board could benefit from learning more about childhood mental illness and associated conditions,

such as depression and anxiety. Other topics the Board prioritized include developmental screenings, well child visits, autism, speech and language conditions, immunizations, and oral health.

Shelley then discussed presenting these topics within the context of educational platforms: data and data-driven practices, describing the population, and enhancing the program model. She asked Board members for additional educational topics that would fall in these categories. Chair Trefz proposed a look at behavioral health, Mary suggested an analysis of telehealth, and Jim recommended the Board look at a snapshot of the volume of dollars/unique lives for different service types, codes, and diagnoses. Jim and Angie suggested the Board take a look at CHIP programs in other states, specifically states that have similar demographics to Iowa, while Angela proposed discussing Iowa's enrollment and demographics.

### **Director's Update**

Director Matney provided an update. She reminded Board members of the upcoming August provider and member townhall events. Iowa Medicaid will give a presentation at these townhall events that draws from multiple publicly available reports and will provide a picture of how Iowa's Medicaid program is performing and the program's metrics compared to other states. Director Matney briefly mentioned that the PHE will extend beyond October. Regardless of when the PHE is lifted, Medicaid is developing a comprehensive PHE unwind plan that will focus on communicating with members, provider, and stakeholders in the most effective ways, taking care not to overwhelm them with information, but also making them aware of coming events. Director Matney also mentioned the newly formed Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and that people should expect to see rebranded communications and a combined website soon, with a full website redesign further down the line. Additionally, Director Matney walked the Board through the dashboards on the Iowa Medicaid website and demonstrated how they can be used to access data. Director Matney concluded by noting that Iowa Medicaid is working on multiple home- and community-based services (HCBS) projects that will ultimately be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and implementation of legislative appropriations, many of which went into effect July 1, 2022.

### **MCO/Outreach/Communications Updates**

John Hedgecoth, Amerigroup, provided an update. Amerigroup continues to prepare for the PHE unwinding process, having biweekly meetings with Iowa Medicaid to discuss flexibilities, processes, enrollments, and redetermination, with a focus on operational flexibilities and gathering data to determine the effectiveness of those flexibilities during the PHE. John briefly mentioned Amerigroup's COVID-19 vaccination efforts, specifically for children under the age of 5. Amerigroup waited 30 days after the release of the 5-and-under vaccine before contacting families and encouraging them to get vaccinated, focusing on those who were still undecided. Amerigroup also has a pediatric case management initiative with the goal of determining roles and responsibilities of all case management entities and standardizing processes. Amerigroup continues to focus on health equity, hosting their first health equity task force internal advisory body in August. John also touched on the housing stability initiative which has helped more than 600 members avoid eviction or transition out of homelessness, and reiterated that Amerigroup is

committed to expanding other social determinants of health (SDOH) initiatives.

Kristin Pendegraft, Iowa Total Care (ITC), provided an update. ITC continues to promote health equity measures, focusing on programs that increase physical activity and improve mental and behavioral health. ITC reached out to approximately 140 members who are due for wellness visits and assisted them in making appointments for an upcoming clinic event. ITC also hosted a back-to-school bash at the John R. Grubb YMCA and distributed backpacks to approximately 700 attendees. Additionally, ITC remains focused on overall member and provider satisfaction, and has assembled a satisfaction task force that will promote initiatives and engagement. The housing and resource team is looking at a proposal that would address youth homelessness in Linn and Johnson Counties. Finally, ITC is developing a proposal that would address mental health in kids transitioning from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school.

Addie Trueblood, Delta Dental of Iowa (DDIA), provided an update. DDIA continues to reach out to members who have not accessed DDIA services recently, and to those who are newly eligible for the program, ensuring members are aware of the benefits available to them. DDIA reports a 56% utilization rate for Hawki members accessing services during state fiscal year (SFY) 2022. Additionally, over 2,600 Hawki members received dental screenings and over 12,000 services were provided through the I-Smile Dental Home Initiative program in SFY 22, with more than half of those members being connected with services from a dental home. Addie also stated that DDIA recently participated in an outreach event in Waterloo and conducted outreach at the Iowa State Fair.

### **Outreach**

Jean Johnson, HHS, provided an update. Jean said that Hawkeye outreach coordinators remained busy over the summer with health fairs and back-to-school events, and referred Board members to the accompanying success stories and photos in the materials packet. Jean mentioned collaborating with HHS and developing outreach to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hawki program. Jean then briefly spoke about a request for proposals (RFP) period coming to an end and that HHS is currently reviewing proposals. Outreach efforts continue to focus on smaller employers and others with close ties to their communities to increase awareness of the Hawki program.

### **Communication**

Emily Eppens, Iowa Medicaid, informed the Board that HHS would be publicly releasing the department's new branding later in the week.

### **Next Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 2:38 PM.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 17, 2022.

Submitted by John Riemenschneider

Recording Secretary

jr