

# CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKGROUP

July 7, 2016

Iowa Capitol Building, Supreme Court Chamber  
1007 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa  
MEETING MINUTES

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## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKGROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gail Barber  
Lynn Bopes  
Susan Christensen  
Erin Drinnin  
Jerry Foxhoven  
Anne Gruenewald  
Representative David Heaton  
Marcus Johnson-Miller  
Senator Liz Mathis

Vickie Miene  
Charles Palmer  
Wendy Rickman  
Kim Scorza  
Rick Shults  
Renee Speh  
David Tilly  
Michele Tilotta  
Shanell Wagler

## WORKGROUP MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sarah Brown  
Wayne Clinton  
Phyllis Hansell  
Scott Hobart  
Bob Lincoln  
Krista Moellers

Tammy Nyden  
Kristina Richey  
Senator Mark Segebart  
Steve Seid  
Amy Shriver  
Representative Art Staed

Jerry Foxhoven thanked the members of the workgroup for returning, welcomed the workgroup members and members of the public to the meeting, and led introductions.

Director Palmer thanked Jerry for chairing the workgroup and spoke about the plan to implement the recommendations made by the Workgroup in 2015. There will be Requests for Proposals (RFP) published for providers of children's mental health crisis services and site for the Learning Labs recommended by the Children's Well-Being subcommittee.

Director Palmer spoke about the next steps for the Workgroup and his goals for this year. He expressed a desire in defining a set of essential mental health services for children, and stressed that an important component would be outlining how a children's mental health system would be funded and governed. Director Palmer said the adult system has defined core services, and that the system is funded and administered by MHDS Regions composed of groups of counties. He said the Workgroup should also consider what an adequate network of providers. Currently there are mental health providers who serve children, but there is not an organized system around them.

Rick Shults spoke about the RFP process and said the Workgroup and members of the public would be shown the scope of work and be given an opportunity to provide input. After July 14, 2016, the RFP would be in a "Blackout period" which means nobody planning to apply for the RFP may directly contact anyone involved with the procurement with questions about it. All questions concerning the RFP should be sent to the Issuing Officer, who is Suzanne Fross.

Suzanne Fross can be reached at (515) 725-2236 or [sfross@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:sfross@dhs.state.ia.us). The RFP for the Learning Labs will follow a similar procedure but be approximately one month later than the Children's Mental Health Crisis Services RFP.

Senator Mathis said the Workgroup's Final Report was well-received by the General Assembly, and thanked Jerry Foxhoven and Anne Gruenewald for chairing the subcommittees and coming to speak at Legislative Committees this last year.

Representative Heaton said he read the Final Report, and heard from his constituents about the need for mental health services. Representative Heaton recalled the adult mental health redesign going through a similar process.

Jerry Foxhoven reviewed HF 2460, Division XIII and noted how closely it followed the recommendations made in the Workgroup's 2015 Final Report.

There was a discussion about mental health coverage in private insurance.

The Workgroup reviewed the service definition section of the 2015 Final Report and discussed the challenges of defining mental health care services.

Rick Shults spoke about the geo-mapping of services. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is making an inventory of children's mental health services to show what is available in the state of Iowa, and where. He stressed that the areas shown by the map would not be MHDS Regions, but areas served by the providers according to criteria set by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

There was discussion on possible administrative structures for a children's mental health system. Suggestions included a Children's Cabinet composed of representatives of several state departments, administration by current MHDS Regions. Representative Heaton expressed concern that a Children's Cabinet at the state level would have difficulty administering a system in communities across the state. Jerry Foxhoven said that MHDS Regions are still developing the adult system and sustainable funding models, and said he would hesitate to give

### **Public Comment**

Teresa Bomhoff of NAMI Greater Des Moines expressed concern about having different administrative structures for the children's mental health system and the adults' mental health system. She expressed a preference for the system to ultimately be governed by MHDS Regions, and acknowledged that it would take some time before there was a fully implemented system.

Christine Elleger of Child and Family Services suggested broadening the language around Evidence-Based Practices (EBP).

Chaney Yeast of Unity Point said she would like the Workgroup to use a broad lens to include all children, and suggested tracking the reimbursement of services and consider the inclusion of pediatric specialists.

Tom Cope of Orchard Place suggested also mapping the utilization of services to show where there is the greatest need.

The Workgroup took a break for lunch at 12:05 pm.

The Workgroup returned from lunch at 1:07 pm

Diane Stahle of the Attorney General's office spoke about conflicts of interest in the RFP process. She explained that potential bidders cannot have access to information that is not available to the public, or input into the development of the RFP that was not open to the public. There will be a public comment period where questions and their answers will be made public followed by a blackout period where all communication regarding the RFP must be made through the issuing officer.

Rick Shults presented a draft of the proposed scope of work for the Children's Crisis RFP. The draft will be posted publicly online, and available for comment for seven days. After that seven day period, anyone can still submit comments, and DHS will read and consider the input, but they will not respond in any way.

Senator Mathis encouraged everyone to send in comments and to spread information regarding this RFP widely so that everyone can provide input if they want to.

#### **Public Comment**

Teresa Bomhoff of NAMI Greater Des Moines expressed concern that defining specific services may be a limitation, and suggested defining domains of services and letting providers develop services within the domains that fit the individuals and area they serve.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.