
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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IOWA MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION — SEPTEMBER 2022

Board Meeting. The [Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services \(MHDS\) Commission](#) met on September 15, 2022, and discussed the following:

Managed Care Executive Summary. The Board discussed its executive summary to the [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#) and the members' thoughts and concerns over the prior year, including issues that did not see substantial progress during 2022 by DHHS and Iowa Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

Institutions Update. Cory Turner, Division Administrator of Facilities, Mental Health and Disability Services, provided an update on Mental Health Institutes (MHIs), the Boys Training School at Eldora, and the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO) at Cherokee. Updates included:

- Discussion of a corrective action plan at Eldora to address violence at the school. DHHS believes violence has decreased over the past year and the plan will help achieve appropriate compliance during calendar year (CY) 2022. Eldora is also updating cottages at the school, and staffing has increased over the prior eight months.
- Discussion of staffing at the Cherokee and Independence MHIs, which is lower than desired and has resulted in a reduced client capacity. The DHHS typically receives 400 to 600 referrals per month from the MCOs for potential cases and must turn away potential clients. There is a 20.0% front-line staffing vacancy rate and a 10.0% nursing vacancy rate at Cherokee and a 40.0% to 50.0% vacancy rate at Independence. There are discussions ongoing about rate increases and the introduction of new capacity for youth clients in the future.
- Increased demand at the CCUSO, which currently has 138 in-house clients and 11 others in the penal system who are committed to CCUSO. Currently, CCUSO is over capacity, but will be expanding into the Jackson Recovery Building to increase capacity due to \$2.1 million in State appropriations in FY 2023.
- The 2024 closing of Glenwood Resource Center (GRC). There are currently 132 clients remaining, with at least 22 individuals accepted into community programs. The DHHS continues to meet with guardians to address concerns with the closure and a transition to other community facilities and programs. At the Woodward Resource Center (WRC), there have been infrastructure upgrades at on-site homes for incoming GRC clients, and the DHHS believes fewer than 45 people will transfer from GRC to WRC.

DHHS Update. Theresa Armstrong, Bureau Chief at the DHHS, discussed the new organizational structure under DHHS, which includes the [Department on Aging](#). The target date for launch of the integrated DHHS website is October 31, 2022. With over 130 boards, commissions, and task forces under the umbrella of the new DHHS, the Department and the Legislature will need to integrate or eliminate some of the overlapping groups before the July 1, 2023, deadline. Bureau Chief Armstrong also discussed the DHHS budget request for FY 2024, which was presented to the Iowa Council on Human Services on September 14, 2022. The request included \$2.100 billion in funding and noted that the MHDS is due to receive a statutory \$6.4 million increase in funding for FY 2024, which was included as a

separate request. Finally, Bureau Chief Armstrong discussed the [announcement](#) of the DHHS's intent to award a new MCO contract to Molina, beginning July 1, 2024.

More Information. Materials and the agenda for the MHDS Commission can be found [here](#). The next MHDS Commission meeting will be held on October 20, 2022.

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