



DIRECT CARE WORKER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting. The Council met on July 15, 2015, at the Learning Resource Center in West Des Moines.

Updates. The meeting began with an update from the various programs and entities that have a nexus to direct care workers.

- The Iowa Department of Public Health provided a legislative update regarding the charge for the Advisory Council and the changes in the enactment for the allocations that fund the initiative. Current timelines indicate that the request for proposals (RFP) for the direct care worker promotion and education that will be released within two to three weeks.
- The Prepare to Care curriculum will be offered at Hawkeye Community College starting in the fall. The curriculum is also close to being recognized by the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) as a certified training module. Ottumwa Job Corps of Iowa hopes to be setting up an internship/externship for individuals that complete the Prepare to Care Core to gain more experience before being hired.
- There were 27 instructors trained for the Mouth Care Matters specialty. Eight trainings at four Des Moines Area Community College locations will be held over the next few months.
- In May and June, the Iowa Caregivers Association conducted five regional focus groups to have conversations and evaluations with employers on the challenges of recruiting and maintaining direct care workers. Discussion items included the aging workforce, reimbursement issues, the need to refresh recruitment and promotional material, and the care gap. The Association also met with the Iowa Veterans Home Commandant Jodi Tymeson regarding the difficulty filling positions at the Home.
- The IDPH commissioned a survey of employers of direct care workers looking at employee turnover. Resources were collected from the University of Iowa, Iowa Workforce Development and the DIA in creating the survey pool. A report is anticipated in August.
- There was also discussion of conducting a survey on the use of the Prepare to Care curriculum and other promotion plans.

Presentations. A representative from the Easter Seals of Iowa presented on the training curriculum that they developed and implemented for direct care worker education that utilized the Prepare To Care Curriculum. Along with that, the broader curriculum utilized trainings on Blood Borne Pathogens, mandatory reporting, HIPAA Privacy Rules, and more. The program utilized assistance from Evelyn K. Davis Center, Iowa Employment Solutions, and Central Iowa Works.

The IDPH gave a presentation on the shifting payment models of medical services due to the Affordable Care Act and a synopsis of the managed care transition being undertaken by the Department of Human Services. Broad conversation on the impacts of Medicaid managed care ensued.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council will be October 21, 2015, location to be announced.

STAFF CONTACT: Kent Ohms (515-725-2200) kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov