



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKGROUP MEETING

Meeting. The Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Workgroup, as guided by the Department of Human Services, met on December 1, 2016, at the Iowa State Capitol.

Federal Medicaid Block Grant. Department of Human Services Director Charles Palmer discussed the possibility of a migration to a federal block grant structure for Medicaid in an effort to control costs and reduce spending. A federal Medicaid block grant would give states more flexibility in managing Medicaid programs by allowing them to accept a fixed amount each fiscal year from the federal government, similar to the use of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant.

Components of Small Groups. The Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Workgroup subcommittees reached a consensus in defining the purpose of children's mental health and well-being efforts, qualifications of entities involved in those efforts, and the ways by which outcomes should be measured.

Community Well-Being Collaborative and Outcome Measures. The Workgroup discussed defining primary, secondary, and tertiary measures of prevention as a basis for outcome measures. The Workgroup plans to discuss outcomes in terms of categorical examples (e.g., prevention-based educational, developmental, social, behavioral, and emotional outcomes) in the Workgroup's report to the Legislature. The Workgroup agreed, however, that Community Well-Being Collaborative participants should have a set of common goals, regardless of the level of flexibility allowed under a categorical measurement model.

The following items were also discussed in relation to the Workgroup's report to the Legislature:

- A recommended but not all-inclusive list of organizations that should participate in encouraging cross-systems collaboration (e.g., between primary health care providers and Accountable Care Organizations).
- An articulated return on investment that demonstrates that participating counties would not receive a less than proportional share of resources in the new children's mental health and well-being system. Based on counties' previous experience with Decategorization projects and Empowerment Areas in child welfare, juvenile justice, and Early Childhood Iowa, using existing and recognized county groupings in the new children's well-being framework is unlikely to pose any new challenges.

Legislative Report. The Workgroup will review the Legislative Report via conference call on Monday, December 12, 2016. The report is scheduled to be published on December 15, 2016.

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