

Easter Seals Iowa provides services and supports across the State of Iowa that support thousands of individuals with disabilities, and their families, to live, learn, work and play in their communities. We are outcomes driven and we have worked for more than 85 years to create solutions. Easter Seals Iowa is accustomed to change and to providing services needed to best meet the needs of our clients. We believe that together we can improve our systems in Iowa so that they are both sufficient to meet the needs of individuals and efficient in their service delivery. We support changes that will create long-term systemic stability. To achieve this outcome, we believe that changes need to be carried out in a collaborative and thoughtful manner.

Our clients and families across the state need a reasonable amount of time and better access to information to make informed decisions about Managed Care Organization options and services. Fear of losing care and services for their loved one is a common theme we hear from the families we serve. We are already seeing continuity of care impacted. Individuals whom we support are losing access to the services and supports they need to live successfully in the community as providers shy away from meeting those with highly complex needs. Current levels of uncertainty are destabilizing our system due to the depths of the systemic unknowns. Just one of these individuals has bounced back and forth between jail and hospitalization over the past few months. His history is that he has always been supported in supervised settings – including having lived for many years in the Resource Center. He's not able to safely navigate the world without support. We've reached out statewide to all levels of care to find a provider willing to meet his needs. There are none. He is currently scheduled to be released from jail with no provider able to provide the support his needs. We are currently seeking emergency re-admission to the Resource Center to secure his basic safety.

We are asking:

- Please, slow the implementation of this initiative. Allow sufficient time to build quality systems. Allow sufficient time for individuals impacted to access information and make an informed choice.
- Please, proceed with thoughtful policy implementation.
- Please, collaborate with us to build a successful transition toward a system that supports the needs of Iowans in an efficient and effective manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice these concerns of our organization and the families that we serve.

Sincerely,

**Marissa Eyanson**

DIRECTOR, CASE MANAGEMENT and INTERIM DIRECTOR, QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

-----  
Easter Seals Iowa | 2920 30th Street | Des Moines, Iowa 50310

P: 515.309.2603 | TTY: 515.289.4069 | F: 515.274.6434

[meyanson@eastersealsia.org](mailto:meyanson@eastersealsia.org) | [www.eastersealsia.org](http://www.eastersealsia.org)

*This electronic transmission and any documents accompanying this electronic transmission contain confidential information belonging to the sender. This information may be legally privileged. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on or regarding the contents of this electronically transmitted information is strictly prohibited.*