Program Evaluation and Analysis of Community-based Services for Behavioral Health, Disability, and Aging Needs in Iowa

Presentation for the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Thursday, July 14, 1-2 pm CT
Agenda

/ Introductions
/ Background, key players, and guideposts of the work
/ Evaluation approach
/ Brainstorming
  1. What does a well-functioning community-based services (CBS) system look like?
  2. In what ways does Iowa’s system for CBS work well?
  3. In what ways does Iowa’s system for CBS not work well?
/ Wrap-up with Q&A
Introductions
Nice to “Meet” You

Jessica McNab
Deputy Project Director

Kimberly Aguillard
Advisory Committee Facilitator

Jody Schimmel Hyde
Evaluation Lead
Background, Players, and Guideposts
Background

/ In the fall of 2021, Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) issued a call for a contractor to help the state conduct a systemwide evaluation of community-based services (CBS)
  - Focus: Iowans with disability, aging, and behavioral health needs
  - Funding: At least two years, with the possibility of two additional years

/ DHS awarded a contract to Mathematica and its partner, The Harkin Institute
Schedule of Activities

January 2022–January 2023
Year 1: Systemwide evaluation and assessment

January 2023–January 2024
Year 2: Technical assistance (TA) and implementation

Two possible option years to continue implementation and TA
Guideposts for Redesigning CBS across the State

- Coordinate care across programs
- Ensure equitable access to services
- Deliver high-quality care
Evaluation Approach
Purpose of the Evaluation

/ Through the systemwide assessment of CBS, we will:

- Understand how Iowa DHS can improve equitable access to high-quality services through Medicaid and other programs
- Identify gaps and inequities in services and opportunities to reduce inefficiencies
- Provide recommendations to improve service delivery
Phases of the Evaluation

Phase 1: Documenting the current landscape
Phase 2: Identifying successes to spread and opportunities to improve
Phase 3: Mapping promising pathways

January 2023: Final report
November 2022: TA plan
October 2022: Recommendations conference
Workstreams Supporting the Evaluation

Policy and program review
- Review Iowa’s policies relevant to CBS for behavioral health, disability, and aging services
- Interview Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) program administrators and others knowledgeable about CBS in Iowa
- Identify best practices and system changes in other states

Quantitative data analysis
- Analyze Medicaid data to understand use of CBS among people enrolled and on waiver waiting lists, like variation by location, age, disability type, waiver enrollment status, and facility use

Engaging invested Iowans
- Facilitate an advisory committee of people with lived experience in accessing or providing CBS in Iowa
- Host listening sessions throughout the state to incorporate diverse perspectives
- Analyze data from an online feedback form, as another strategy to gather feedback from the community

Practical recommendations and implementation of TA
Current Priority Areas of Analysis

Barriers to CBS
- Facilitators and barriers to transitions between community and institutional settings
- Policy, program, and procedural incentives for facility and community care

Home- and community-based services (HCBS)
- Medicaid waiver design
- Entry onto waivers
- Services available on waivers
- Waiver waitlist policies
Highlight of Learnings

/ There is misalignment in services and spending across waivers

/ Waitlist data suggests Iowa’s waiver waitlist population has more than doubled since January 2019, while the number of people served on a waiver has stayed consistent

/ Consumers experience a reactive system, particularly as they transition in and out of facilities
What’s Ahead this Summer for Workstreams

Policy and program review
- Continuing interviews to identify barriers and facilitators of facility transitions
- Estimating demand of waiver services
- Reviewing other states’ policies and procedures for HCBS Medicaid waivers

Quantitative data analysis
- Analyzing Medicaid and other data
- Reviewing services used before and after waiver enrollment
- Estimating service use and costs by need

Engaging invested Iowans
- Continuing to engage the advisory committee to help interpret findings
- Hosting more listening sessions to get input from across the state
- Gathering data from an online feedback form
Brainstorming
What Do You Think? (1)

1. What does a well-functioning CBS system look like in Iowa?
What Do You Think? (2)

2. In what ways does Iowa’s system for CBS work well?
What Do You Think? (3)

3. In what ways does Iowa’s system for CBS not work well?
Wrap-up
How Can You Get Involved?

1. Check out the Iowa DHS project webpage for updates: [https://dhs.iowa.gov/CBSE](https://dhs.iowa.gov/CBSE).

2. The webpage includes a comprehensive overview of the project.

3. Consider participating in a listening session.

4. Provide feedback online through the online feedback form, anonymously.
Questions
Thank You!

Mathematica Evaluation Team: iowahcbs@mathematica-mpr.com

Mathematica: https://www.mathematica.org/
Princeton, NJ • Ann Arbor, MI • Cambridge, MA
Chicago, IL • Oakland, CA • Seattle, WA
Tucson, AZ • Woodlawn, MD • Washington, DC

EDI Global, a Mathematica Company
Bukoba, Tanzania • High Wycombe, United Kingdom