

XI. CONCLUSION

This report presents a substantial number of recommendations to redesign and reform the system of services for adults and children with mental health disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and brain injury in Iowa. All of the issue analyses and formation of consensus recommendations were carried out in the context of SF 525. While the report may not address every issue in SF 525, it does provide a clear and concrete set of recommendations and implementation guideposts that can be used by the Iowa Legislature to meet its own goal of reforming these systems of services for people with disabilities. It also provides a set of principles and consumer-focused outcomes that can guide the Legislature in its decision making.

The report represents the contribution and collaborations of many different stakeholders who came together over a brief period of time and engage in intensive discussions of very difficult and complex issues. The degree of consensus reached is a testament to both the hard work of these stakeholders and their willingness to put special interests aside in order to develop recommended reforms for the common good. The quality of this work, and the degree of consensus reached, should give the Legislature a high degree of confidence that, if the recommendations are accepted, there will be considerable support for implementation.

All participants in the process recognized that resources are limited. Participants also realized that “the perfect can be the enemy of the good”. Thus, the consensus recommendations included in this report are considered by the Workgroup participants to be feasible to implement in a multi-year sequential process in the context of Iowa priorities, resources, and traditions.