

DIVISION XXII
CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL=BEING WORKGROUP

Sec. 102. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WORKGROUP.

The department of human services, in cooperation with the departments of education and public health, shall facilitate a study by a workgroup of stakeholders which shall make recommendations relating to children's mental health. The workgroup shall study incorporating a coordinated response in children's mental health services that emphasizes implementation of mental health issues across the various systems that serve children, taking into account the effects of mental health, child welfare, and child welfare systems and services, and that specifically addresses the effects of adverse childhood experiences and child poverty. The workgroup shall create interdepartmental awareness of issues relating to children's mental health. The workgroup shall develop interdepartmental strategies for helping improve children's mental health and shall develop strategies to promote community partnerships to help address issues of children's mental health. In carrying out its charge, the workgroup shall review a 2014 report by the children's defense fund on the state of America's children containing the most recent and reliable national and state=by=state data on many complex issues affecting children's health, including data on more than 7,000 homeless public school students in Iowa. The workgroup shall submit a report on the study with recommendations, including but not limited to recommendations relating to the creation and implementation of a children's mental health crisis response system to aid parents and other custodians in dealing with children experiencing a mental health crisis. The workgroup shall submit its report to the governor and the general assembly on or before December 15, 2015.