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## DHS Appoints Workgroups for Mental Health Redesign

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – On Tuesday Department of Human Services Director Chuck Palmer announced selections for workgroups to recommend sweeping changes in the delivery of mental health services.

“I’m gratified that Iowa’s most skilled and resourceful experts volunteered their service for these groups, and I’m confident that the result of their work will help us build a mental health delivery system that will meet the needs of customers and taxpayers alike,” Palmer said.

Legislation approved in the 2011 session directs the DHS to appoint and lead workgroups to recommend changes to a current system that has funding and service inequities.

Workgroups will recommend proposals to:

- Meet the needs of consumers for disability services in responsive and cost-effective manner.
- Develop a core set of services available for anyone who is eligible for government-funded mental health or disability services.
- Reorganize adult disability services into a system administered on a regional basis.
- Redesign publicly funded children’s mental health and disability services.
- Identify approaches to address the needs for publicly funded services for persons with brain injury and review best practices.
- Implement services in accordance with Olmstead principles.
- Address co-occurring mental health, intellectual disability, brain injury, and substance abuse.

The groups must report their suggestions by mid December. Legislators, who declared their intent to redesign the current system, will consider the recommendations when they return in January.

The work is divided into several groups, including adult mental health, brain injury, children’s disability, intellectual disability services, and regional services. Palmer said he will ask the work groups to convene by the middle of August. Workgroup schedules, minutes, and other information will be posted here: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html>.

Here are the individuals appointed by Palmer to the work groups as of 8/2/11:

### **Adult Mental Health**

Chuck Palmer, DHS Director, chair. Christopher Atchison, director, University of Iowa Hygienic Lab, co-chair; Deb Albrecht, Director, Berryhill Center for Mental Health; Jerry Bartruff, Statewide Reentry Coordinator, Department of Corrections Offender Services; Teresa Bomhoff, Chair, Mental Health Planning Council; Gilbert Cervený, Manager, Alegent Health Systems; Becky Cleveland,

Senior Consultant, Gunderson Lutheran; Dr. Bhasker Dave, Superintendent, Independence Mental Health Institute; Lynn Ferrell, director, Polk County Health Services; Dr. Michael Flaum, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, U of I Consortium for Mental Health; Chris Hoffman, Director, Pathways; Patrick Schmitz, Director, Plains Area Mental Health Center; Kathy Stone, Division Administrator, IDPH Division of Behavioral Health.

### **Brain Injury**

Megan Hartwig, Manager, IDPH Brain Injury Program, chair; Jack Hackett, Senior Therapist, Iowa Health-Employee and Student Assistance Program, co-chair; Tom Brown, Director, Community Neurorehab; Julie Fidler Dixon, Director, On With Life; Kay Graber, family member, member board of directors, Brain Injury Association of Iowa; Michael Hall, neuropsychologist, Veterans Affairs Medical Center Iowa City; Dave Johnson, survivor of brain injury, Bremer County Rhonda Jordal, family member, Linn County; Lisa Langlitz, Central Point of Coordination, Cherokee County; Geoffrey Lauer, Director, Brain Injury Association of Iowa; LeAnn Moskowitz, Program Manager, DHS; Ben Woodworth, Training Director, Iowa Association of Community Providers.

### **Children's Mental Health and Disability**

Jennifer Vermeer, Division Administrator, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, chair; Dr. Mark Peltan, Clinical Psychiatrist, Mercy Behavioral Services in Mason City, co-chair; Marilyn Althoff, Director, Hills and Dales; Nicole Beaman, Health Director, United Way of Central Iowa; Paula Connolly, Family Support Coordinator, Ask Resource Center; Julie Curry, State Coordinator, Department of Education Early Access Program; Jim Ernst, Director, Four Oaks; Jerry Foxhoven, Director, Drake Legal Clinic; Jan Heikes, Central Point of Coordination, Allamakee and Winneshiek counties; Janice Lane Assistant Director, Children and Families of Iowa, Marilyn Lantz, Chief Juvenile Court Officer; Samantha Murphy, Director Children's Behavioral Health, Blank Children's Hospital; Wendy Rickman, DHS Division Administrator, Division of Adult Children and Family Services; Rhonda Shouse, parent representative, Iowa Mental Health Planning Council; Dr. Jason Smith, Superintendent, Cherokee Mental Health Institute; David Stout, Vice President, Orchard Place; Dr. Debra Waldron, Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Iowa.

### **Adult Intellectual Disability Services**

Karalyn Kuhns, Interim Division Administrator, DHS Division of Mental Health and Disability Services, chair; Robert Bacon, Director, U of I Center for Excellence on Disabilities, co-chair; Jim Aberg, Services Director, Opportunity Village; Ron Askland, Chief Executive Officer, Horizons Unlimited; Mary Dubert, community volunteer, Scott County; Marsha Edgington-Bott, Superintendent, Woodward Resource Center; Dawn Francis, Director, Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council; Stephanie Gelhaar, Director, Mosaic; Jan Heidemann, Central Point of Coordination, Bremer County; Cindy Kaestner, Director, Abbe Center for Community Mental Health; Roger Lusala, Director, Mayor's Youth Empowerment Program, Johnson County; Susan Koch Seehase, Services Director, Exceptional Persons of Black Hawk County.

### **Regional**

Chuck Palmer, DHS Director, chair; Robert Brownell, County Supervisor, Polk County; Jane Arnold, Director, St. Luke's Health System; Lori Elam, Central Point of Coordination, Scott County; Tom Eachus, director, Black Hawk-Grundy County Mental Health Center; David Hudson, brain injury advocate, MHDS Commission, Polk County; Linda Langston, County Supervisor, Linn county; Sarah Kauffman, Central Point of Coordination, Henry County; Bob Lincoln, Central Point of Coordination, Black Hawk-Butler, Cerro Gordo counties, Sally Stutsman, County Supervisor, Johnson County; Suzanne Watson, Central Point of Coordination, Pottawattamie County.