

**PREVENTION OF DISABILITIES POLICY COUNCIL TRANSITIONING  
RESPONSE FROM THE  
MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

The Mental Health and Disability Services Commission is the state policy-making body for the provision of services to persons with mental illness, intellectual disability, other developmental disabilities, or brain injury, created pursuant to Iowa Code §225C.5.

To the extent funding is available, the Commission's statutory duties include:

- Advising the Department on the administration of the overall state disability services system.
- Annually submitting a report to the Governor and the General Assembly including its activities and its recommendations for changes in state law. Biennially, their report also includes an evaluation of the extent to which services to persons with disabilities are actually available to persons in each county and mental health and disability services region in the state and the quality of those services, and the effectiveness of the services being provided by disability service providers, state mental health institutes, and state resource centers.
- Advising the Department, the Council on Human Services, the Governor, and the General Assembly on budgets and appropriations concerning disability services.
- Coordinating activities with the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council and the Iowa Mental Health Planning Council, which are created pursuant to federal law. The Commission works with other state agencies concerning activities involving persons with disabilities through coordination, collaboration, communication.

If the executive branch creates a committee, task force, council, or other advisory body to consider disability services policy or program options involving children or adult consumers, the commission is designated to receive and consider any report, findings, recommendations, or other work product issued by such body. The Commission may address the report, findings, recommendations, or other work product in fulfilling the commission's functions and to advise the department, council on human services, governor, and general assembly concerning disability services.

The MHDS Commission's responsibilities most closely intersect with the priorities identified by the Prevention of Disabilities Policy Council related to Priority 3, improving health and preventing secondary conditions in people with disabilities. Within the scope of its statutory duties, the MHDS Commission can support prevention of disability efforts in Iowa by:

1. Monitoring and providing recommendations to policy makers regarding access to quality health care for people with disabilities, particularly with respect to prevention of secondary conditions in the disability populations specified by this Commission's statutory charge.
2. Receiving and considering the conclusions of the Health Care for Iowans with Disabilities Report (due by 6/30/16) once it is complete.
3. Receiving and considering the State Plan to Improve the Health of Iowans with Disabilities (2012-2017) and the new state plan, once completed, for 2018-2023.