



Iowa Department of Human Services

Kim Reynolds
Governor

Adam Gregg
Lt. Governor

Jerry R. Foxhoven
Director

August 20, 2018

Development of Children's Mental Health System Begins

(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Department of Human Services (DHS) has begun the important initial steps of establishing a Children's Mental Health System (Children's System) in the state of Iowa. As directed by Governor Reynolds' [Executive Order 2](#), the Children's System State Board (Children's Board) has been established. The Children's Board serves an important role in establishing a statewide mental health system committed to improving children's well-being, building healthy and resilient children, providing for educational growth, and coordinating medical and mental health care for those in need.

The Governor's Executive Order 2 directs the Children's Board to find concrete solutions to the challenges that exist relating to children's mental health in the State of Iowa, to study and consider existing information and data from previous working group's materials and reports, to collect and utilize new information and data to develop and implement the Children's System, and to develop a strategic plan to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by November 15, 2018.

"I am pleased that we are making progress in addressing this critical issue, which is important to so many Iowa families. I know those who have been appointed to the board are committed to ensuring we create a system that works, and ultimately will save lives. I am proud to be part of this effort," said Director Jerry Foxhoven.

The first Children's System State Board meeting will take place on August 23, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the West Des Moines Learning Resource Center. These meetings are open to the public. More information, including the public meeting schedule, can be found [here](#).

For more information
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