



# Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign 2011

## Sioux City, Iowa Listening Post

Source: Public Comments

Date: September 30, 2011

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

\*These public comments were captured during the Sioux City, Iowa Listening Post that took place on September 30, 2011. Director Chuck Palmer and Division Administrator Rick Shults represented DHS. Any case specific materials that were provided publicly were done so by family members. Department responses provided to the consumer and/or family member as a follow-up to a question asked during the meeting are confidential.

Comment: Peer support needs to be a core funded service and made available 24 hours per day, along with transportation. One program to look at is the Sioux City Friendship house and a drop-in program was also mentioned.

Comment: We need to eliminate legal settlement.

Comment: We need crisis stabilization services available to adults throughout the state. These need to be available 24 hours a day.

Comment: Iowa needs more chronic mental health services and acute mental health services.

Comment: I just want to say that Woodbury County has a strong mental health advocate in Judge McCormick. The county also funds therapists in schools.

Comment: What will happen to the services for individuals who do not meet waiver eligibility? I was on the Brain Injury waiver for 4 years, but "lost" my services after an annual review showed I no longer met facility level of care. I want transportation support in order to work and am currently on MEPD.

Comment: Transportation is a big issue for those living in rural areas. But it is also necessary for individuals who have health conditions who need to get appointments and work.

Comment: More transitional services are needed.

- Comment: There is a need for help for parents with children who have been sexually abused and have become abusers themselves. Where do these children go once released from the school/children's system? There is currently no step-down service for these kids who have MH/ID and other issues. Kids transferring off a mental health waiver are tough to help.
- Comment: We need better education in the schools to address the needs of children with mental health issues.
- Comment: A provider asked, How will regions work? We like the accessibility of local services and timely payments that we are receiving from CPCs in our region. Would a state approval process be slower? A centralized system seems to be slower. We're working with DHS centralized eligibility unit out of Council Bluffs. Many counties in Northwest Iowa region have no waiting lists. Will regions change that?
- Comment: How will regions feel any different from the existing county system? Will Des Moines make all decisions?
- Comment: Representative Dwayne Alons attended a tri-state meeting with South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska and heard about the North Carolina model. Has Iowa looked at this?
- Comment: Vocational rehab services are needed and employment for consumers as well.
- Comment: Individuals who don't receive services today end up in the corrections system. That is the wrong place for them. What are we doing to address this?

If you have additional input that you feel is critical to consider in the redesign process, please email your comments to: [DHS-MHSRedesign@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:DHS-MHSRedesign@dhs.state.ia.us).

If you would like to learn more about the Redesign process and follow the progress of the workgroups, visit: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html>.