

## Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council 2020 Legislative Priorities

*Council's Mission: To create change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing*

**Priority #1: Establish a stable, long-term funding stream for the Regional Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) system that supports the vision of the MH/DS redesign and growth of a system that expands access to services for Iowans with developmental disabilities and brain injuries.**

Ensure that savings to the MHDS regions from the Iowa Health and Wellness plan are used to support the delivery of all core services, the development of additional core services and expansion of services other populations such as those with developmental disabilities and brain injuries. Additionally, the requirement that regional fund balances must be eliminated should be repealed

Ensure that provider reimbursement rates from all payers are set at a level that preserves the stability of services, builds community capacity and enables safety net providers to offer an array of services necessary to meet the complex needs of all who are served by the MHDS system.

Ensure that transportation related to the delivery of services is included as a core service and a reimbursable expense.

**Priority #2: Adequately fund and administer a state Medicaid program that ensures access to an array of community services for Iowans with developmental disabilities.**

Ensure that there is no cost shifting or provision of services from the IA Health Link to the MH/DS regions.

Ensure that there is adequate funding to eliminate and/or reduce waiting list numbers and waiting times for the Home and Community Based Services Waivers.

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Ensure that there are continued efforts to provide IA Health Link members with a choice of Managed Care Organizations.

Ensure that costs for transportation, including non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), continue as benefits under the state's Medicaid program.

**Priority #3: Expand the Children's Service System to include the development and management of a system of care for all children with serious emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, brain injuries and developmental disabilities by the MHDS regions. Ensure the state had adequate funding for the Children's Service System.**

**Priority #4: Expand the availability, knowledge, skills and compensation of professionals, paraprofessionals and direct support workers to build community capacity and ensure access to a comprehensive system of mental health and disability services.**

Ensure that provider reimbursement rates are adequate to allow providers to offer wages, employment benefits and ongoing training that attract and retain qualified staff.

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