

Summary of State Plan Public Comments

Comments received via state plan email

- We should consider adding education partners as one of our partners in areas where this makes sense
- Consider having a goal about ending Managed Care.

Listening Sessions

We held three listening sessions. One was held in the evening and two were held during the day. One listening session specifically targeted the Deaf and Hard of hearing communities. American Sign Language was provided at all three sessions. Twenty-two people attended (Three self-advocates, two family advocates, seventeen professionals/other advocates). Ten Council members attended.

- Consider more partnership agencies such as ASK Resources, Center for Independent Living Centers and the Department of Transportation
- Consider more mentoring projects and opportunities
- Consider developing fact sheets and white papers about specific issues such as housing, employment and transportation to educate state policy makers on Iowa specific issues.
- Provide outreach to rural areas as well for deaf and hard of hearing communities (referring to the Target Disparity Goal)
- Consider putting DD Council resources in multiple languages including the website
- The plan should be simplified and recorded. *Based on this suggestion, we did record Brooke Lovelace reading the plan and providing additional clarification. This recording included an ASL interpreter.*

Comments received via informal discussions and emails with DD Council Staff

- State plan is not in plain language
- More detail needed with some objectives.
- InfoNet and our other resources need to be in plain language or have options
- We should educate legislators not only on the importance of gathering input from people with disabilities but educate legislators on how to do that.
- The Council should consider a diversity workgroup to help with the reaching the underserved populations

Comments received via survey (thirteen responses, six people with disabilities, four family members three other)

- It needs more detail, more action steps
- Continue to develop partnerships with other disability organizations (Iowa Association of the Deaf, Epilepsy Foundation. Autism Society)
- Assist advocates with telling their stories to legislators.

Methods used to receive public comment

- Press Release
- Three emails were sent to the Iowans with Disability in Action Network (19% open rate)
- Shared via Facebook 23 times. (reached 2,396 people, shared to 10 other Facebook pages)
- Shared in three editions of InfoNet
- Post card mailed to the Iowans with Disabilities in Action Network
- Emailed through various list serves and included in newsletters (ICIE, Autism Society, Iowa Family Training Institute, Vocational Rehabilitation Statewide Council)
- Bill will be presenting the State Plan at the Mental Health and Disability Services and the Mental Health Planning Council joint meeting in May