



A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE: At-a-Glance

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A PUBLICATION OF THE IDPH
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

DIVISION QUICK FACTS

“Mental Health Redesign”: With the passing of Senate File 525, the Iowa General Assembly directed the Department of Human Services to initiate a redesign of the State’s mental health and disability services system. Under the bill, disability services are defined as “services and other supports available to a person with mental illness or an intellectual disability of other developmental disability.” The intent of the legislation is to:

- Shift funding responsibility for the nonfederal share of adult disability services paid for by the Medicaid program, including but not limited to all costs for the state resource centers, from the counties to the state.
- Reorganize adult disability services not paid for by the Medicaid program into a system administered on a regional basis in a manner that provides multiple local points of access to adult disability services both paid for by the Medicaid program and not paid for by the Medicaid program.
- Replace legal settlement as the basis for determining financial responsibility for publicly funded disability services determining such responsibility based upon residency.
- Meet the needs of consumers for disability services in a responsive and cost-effective manner.

SF525 established multiple work groups as well as a legislative Interim Committee on Mental Health and Disability Services to reach its goals. IDPH will be involved in those work groups with a focus on IDPH-related activities, such as brain injury best practices and approaches for addressing co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Go to DHS’s website at <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html> to learn more.

Disaster Preparedness: IDPH’s mission is “promoting and protecting the health of Iowans”. You can see daily examples of this in the Department’s programming and services, but there are times when extra measures are required. This summer’s flooding on the western border of the state, has been one such time.

IDPH’s *Divisions of Behavioral Health and Environmental Health* worked together as part of the State’s larger Incident Management System to host weekly conference calls in June and July with funded substance abuse and problem gambling treatment providers to address concerns that treatment services could be interrupted because of flooding and potential provider relocation. Our thanks go to the providers who participated in the calls for their focus on putting clients first. Even though no provider service locations were closed, many provider staff members and their families were affected by local flooding. We also thank other state agencies which were willing to consider temporary policy exceptions to support uninterrupted services. If you have any questions about preparedness and service continuation, both before and during a disaster, contact Kevin Gabbert at Kevin.Gabbert@idph.iowa.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Iowa Plan Provider Roundtable: Medication Assisted Treatment August 31.

River Place DHS in Des Moines and ICN.

For more information, go to www.magellanofiowa.com or contact Cindy Woodard at 1-800-638-8820 Ext.85006.

Command Spanish September 12-14. Johnston.

For more information contact Training Resources at 515-309-3317.

Recovery Month: Celebrate Recovery at Adventureland September 18. Altoona. For more information contact Training Resources at 515-309-3317.

2011 Mental Health Conference: October 11-12. Scheman Building in Ames. Watch for more information at www.trainingresources.org.

2011 Iowa Prevention Conference November 2. Holiday Inn - Des Moines Airport. Watch for more information at www.trainingresources.org.

For more information about the IDPH Division of Behavioral Health, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/bh

For questions related to “A Matter of Substance,” contact the editors:
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