

OCTF Medicaid and Legislative Watch Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2025

In Attendance: Bill Loyd (Chair), Harriet Gulbranson (voting member), Kelly Stull (voting member), Laura Leise (HHS), Falcia Beck (staff support)

Excused: Megz Stroback communicated in advance that they could not make today's meeting

Absent Voting Members: David Thielen, Michael Martin

Priority Areas Adopted by the Full OCTF as of January 10, 2025

1) Employment

- a. Support the [Work Without Worry Act](#)
 - i) A bill to create a "Work without Worry" program in Iowa Medicaid was discussed by lawmakers last year and advocates are asking for its passage this year. It would remove the penalties for a working spouse's income and raise the income and asset limits for Medicaid coverage for Iowans with disabilities.
 - ii) Bill History: Committee approval 2/19/24. Introduced and referred to appropriations
 - iii) Currently in draft form and will again be proposed by Rep. Josh Turek.
 - iv) Modeled after the bill that passed in Tennessee.

2) Medicaid

- a. Overhaul at state level; reauthorization at federal level
- b. A new [CBPP brief](#) reports that per capita caps are in discussion again. Iowa expenditures have exceeded the proposed cap in at least 4 years: by 7% in 2019, 8% in 2020, 3% in 2021, and 11% in 2022 which could mean drastic cuts.
- c. Track reforms (past and future) and have a presence at public comment meetings
- d. **Iowa**
 - i) A budget increase is proposed for this year ([HF 13](#)) – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**
 - ii) Most of that will go towards rate increases for providers
 - iii) ICAP continues to lead that charge
 - iv) Long-term could sustain current service and potentially increase services
 - v) Threatened by what happens at the federal level
- e. **Federal**
 - i) Per Capita Caps discussions are ongoing – **CAN ADVOCATE NOW**
 - ii) Many efforts aimed at impact of caps at both the local and federal level
 - iii) IDDC sponsoring a webinar next Friday at noon as a general education session (sign up to receive alerts)

3) Availability of Services/Capacity

- a. Waiting lists and inadequate number of providers to meet the need
- b. Inadequate reimbursement rates for providers
- c. Direct Support Professional Workforce Crisis (see [ANCOR REPORT](#))
- d. **Iowa**
 - i) See comments under Medicaid and proposed budget increase
- e. **Federal**
 - i) DSP Workforce Shortage
 - (1) [ANCOR: The Details](#)
 - (2) [ANCOR's 2024 Report on the DSP Workforce Crisis](#)

Iowa Legislative Calendar

- **February 14:** Final day for legislators to request bills (committee chairs may still request study bills after this date).
- **March 7:** First deadline (called a “funnel”). Bills must be voted out of committee by this date (except for tax and budget bills).
- **April 4:** Second “funnel” deadline. Bills must be voted out of committee in the second chamber (so House bills out of Senate committees and Senate bills out of House committees).
- **May 2:** 110th day of session (the “last day” – legislators lose staff and “per diem” expenses).

Advocacy Partners and Tools

- **APSE:** Public Policy Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 3:00pm – 4:00pm EST. julie@apse.org for assistance.
- **IACP:** publishes a weekly Bill Watch for members. Their day at the capitol is 3/27/25. [Register here.](#)
- **The Arc:** [Save Medicaid Campaign](#)
 - [Calling All Advocates: Medicaid Advocacy in 2025 - The Arc](#)
- **IDDC:** Medicaid Webinar- What is at Stake 2/7/25 at noon.
- **IDDC:** [Capitol Chats](#) – every other Friday at noon.
- **ANCOR:** Protect Medicaid [Take Action Tool](#)

Next Steps for the Subcommittee

- Begin identifying and developing stories aligned with target legislation
- Determine availability for visits to Des Moines and presence in forums that give legislative updates
- Continue to identify advocacy tools and best practices

Building Legislative Champions and Advocacy Partners Over Time

- Zoom calls, visits, and invitations to OCTF meetings outside of session with legislators to build relationships, explain who we are and share our areas of interest/stories.
- Consider supporting established Political Action Committee (PAC) Funds
- Potential Champions and Partners
 - Rep. Elizabeth Wilson
 - Rep. Josh Turek
 - Rep. Chad Ingles
 - Sen. Art Staed
 - Rep. Aime Wichtendahl
 - AUCD

Action Items

- **Falicia:**
 - Invite Legislative Champions to OCTF meetings
- **Bill:**
 - Once Work without Worry draft is released, share with OCTF