



Olmstead Consumer Task Force
Medicaid and Legislative Watch Committee
February 20, 2025

OCTF Medicaid and Legislative Watch Subcommittee Members

Harriet Gulbranson

Paula Connolly

Megz Stroback

Kelly Stull

Jen Simmering

Amy Desenberg-Wines

David Thielen

Michael Martin

Falicia Beck (staff support)

Bill Loyd

We welcome any additional persons (voting members and volunteers) who wish to serve on this committee.

Agenda

- Review and approve minutes from last meeting
- Updated status of bills of interest per the strategic priorities adopted by OCTF
- Highlight advocacy opportunities to be sent to the full committee and ask that each person complete at least one action step
- Highlight in person advocacy opportunities in Des Moines
- Discuss the feasibility of a Medicaid education session for OCTF members and other interested parties
- Identify potential stories that can be included as comments for future committee meetings
- Identify other tasks that the committee can undertake

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

EMPLOYMENT

- Support the [Work Without Worry Act](#)

MEDICAID

- Overhaul at state level; reauthorization at federal level
- 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.
- Track reforms (past and future) and have a presence at public comment meetings

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES/CAPACITY

- Waiting lists and inadequate number of providers to meet the need
- Inadequate reimbursement rates for providers
- Direct Support Professional Workforce Crisis (see ANCOR REPORT)



UPDATES



Weekly Bill Watch
Iowa Association of Community Providers
2025 Session - Week 5
(Bold Items New This Week)

Governor's Priorities		HHS Legislative Updates		
2025 Policy Priorities & FY 2026 Budget Recommendations LSA Breakdown of FY 2026 HHS Budget Recommendations		Medicaid Update Slide Deck Medicaid Rate Review Matrix 2025 Medicaid Reference Guide		
Bill No.	Subject	Official Position	Status	Sponsor/Notes
Medicaid				
HF 13	MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates annually by the lower of the Midwestern CPI or 2.5%.	Support	Referred to HHS Committee	Collins
SF 284 (SSB 1002); HSB 11	MEDICAID TRUST EXPENSES Increases the amount of a Medicaid assistance trust that can be distributed for expenses of the beneficiaries without court approval to \$50.	Support	S: Referred to Judiciary Committee 2/12: Passed Committee H: Referred to Judiciary Committee	Judiciary

			1/28: Passed Committee	
HF 121	HCBS EDUCATIONAL TESTING Requires the DOE to distribute materials to schools and AEAs to allow employees to assist in educational testing related to HCBS waivers. Authorizes AEA employees to assist in such testing.	Support	Referred to Education Committee	Jones
HSB 122	HAWK-I AUTISM SUPPORT Repeals the Autism Support program in HAWK-I as of July 2027. Requires the Medicaid Assistance Advisory Council to adopt rules to include applied behavior analysis services for autism treatment. Appropriates \$750,000 to HAWK-I from the autism support fund in FY 2026.	Support	Referred to HHS Committee 2/10: Passed Subcommittee	HHS
SF 255	PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE Increases the personal needs allowance for persons on Medicaid and in various facilities to \$65 a month and indexes future increases to the CPI.	Support	Referred to HHS Committee	Westrich
Other Bills of Interest				
SF 283 (SF 14); HF 271 (HF 97)	TRANSITION PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS Requires the College Student Aid Commission to develop a scholarship program for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are 18 and who are enrolled in a federally approved comprehensive transition and postsecondary program. Limits the scholarships to \$5,000. Requires the CSC to consult with Voc Rehab services on the program.	Support	S: Referred to Education Committee 2/11: Passed Committee H: Referred to Education Committee 2/6: Passed Committee	Taylor; Ingels

<p>HSB 153; SSB 1120</p>	<p>YOUTH SERVICES Exempts PMICs from licensing as an SA facility. Makes definitions for facilities, conditions and treatment, including protective locked environments. Details the care required of a PMIC for youth with SA or serious emotional disturbance problems. Requires DIAL, in conjunction with HHS, adopt rules on the use of protective locked environments by PMICs. Includes timelines for courts to make placements of minor respondents. Adds circumstances for courts to make ex parte rulings in juvenile matters. Expands placements/orders courts can make after various dispositional hearings. Requires HHS to suspend but not terminate a child's enrollment in Hawk-I after the child is placed in a public institution. Makes corrections.</p>	<p>Monitor</p>	<p>H: Referred to HHS S: Referred to HHS</p>	<p>HHS</p>
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Work Without Worry Act

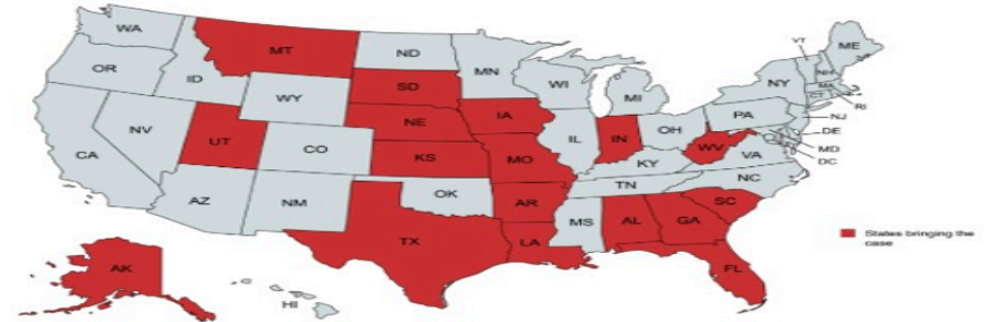
Draft bill not yet released. Targeted to go to committees in both the house and senate on 2/25/25. Two groups from the University of Iowa and one one other inclusive post secondary program plan to attend those hearings.

Currently in draft form and will again be proposed by Rep. Josh Turek.

Modeled after the bill that passed in Tennessee.

4. Section 504 Lawsuit

- 17 States (including Iowa)
- Texas v. Becerra
- Asking to get rid of Section 504
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- dredf.org/protect-504/



- **Community Meeting Recording:** dredf.org/disability-community-briefing-what-you-can-do-to-stop-the-attack-on-section-504/

Section 504 covers all parts of society that get money from the United States government. The rules in Section 504 say that:

- Schools must include students with disabilities and help them learn.
- Doctors and schools must have sign language; videos with captions.
- Doctors must give clear information to disabled people.
- School/hospital must work for people who are blind and low vision.
- Doctors/hospitals cannot stop helping someone because of disability.
- Doctors and hospitals must have tools and machines that work for wheelchair users. This includes machines that check for cancer.

lowaddcouncil.org/take-action-center

Iowa Legislative Calendar for Important Date

- **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).



Call To Action

A blurred background image showing several people in a meeting or office setting. The focus is on the text overlay on the right side of the image.

Advocacy Partners and Tools

ACTION ITEMS – WAYS YOU CAN HELP

STAY INFORMED

- IDDC Medicaid Webinar: What is at Stake 2/7/25 at noon. Register [here](#).
- IDDC [Bill Tracker](#) and Weekly Updates and [Capitol Chat](#) – Every other Friday at noon.
- IDDC – Video- [Medicaid: What's at Stake and How to Advocate](#)
- IACP publishes a weekly Bill Watch for members. Their day at the capitol is 3/27/25. [Register here](#).

TAKE ACTION

- ANCOR's Protect Medicaid [Take Action Tool](#)
- The Arc has a SAVE [MEDICAID Campaign](#)
- IDDC [Take Action Center](#)



ACTION ITEMS – WAYS YOU CAN HELP

IACP

"Hands Off Medicaid Hotline": 866-426-2631

Now is the time to make sure your federal congressional representatives understand the importance of Medicaid to you as a constituent and to people across Iowa. Call your federal representative! Here is a quick and easy way to call today.

- **Dial 866-426-2631.**
- **You will be asked to give your zip code.**
- **Your call will be automatically directed to your representative.**
- **You may either speak with a staff member or be directed to voicemail. If you reach voicemail, please leave a message with your name and zip code!**

[Find Your Representative](#)

[IOWA DD COUNCIL TAKE ACTION CENTER](#)

The Take Action Center helps you explore current legislation and use prefilled templates to contact your representatives about issues that matter to you.





IACP Hill Day 2025

Join IACP and the Iowa Providers PAC for a day at the Iowa State Capitol. Our efforts can make a significant impact on policy decisions and can ensure community providers the support they need. Let us make our voices heard and advocate for the vital work of community providers like you.

Date: March 27, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Iowa State Capitol Building, 1007 E Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50319. Check-in with IACP staff in the Rotunda.

What to expect:

Whether it is your first Hill Day or 101st, the IACP team and our hired lobbyists, Andrew Conlin and Dennis Gibben, will be at the Statehouse to assist you. We will gather and engage in conversation with legislators in the rotunda informing them of our unified ask. We hope to see you there!

[Register for IACP Hill Day 2025](#)

Next Steps for the Sub Committee



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.

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- Consider supporting established Political Action Committee (PAC) Funds

Potential Champions and Partners

- Rep. Elizabeth Wilson – has previously attended OCTF meetings
- Rep. Josh Turek – invitation extended for bi-monthly meetings accepted.
- Rep. Chad Ingles – invite to OCTF meeting
- Sen. Art Staed and Rep. Aime Wichtendahl
- Zach Wahls
- AUCD
- Please feel free to share additional names and contact information