

From: Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Human Services
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021
To: All Staff
Subject: Connection Points Report Released

We are one step further along the road toward greater alignment between the Iowa Departments of Public Health and Human Services. You can now access and review a *Connection Points Report* on the [HHS Alignment website](#). This report details potential “connection points” between the departments’ programs and services, service entry and delivery points, and target populations. A “connection point” identifies a place where closer alignment of work between the two departments may have material benefits to Iowans.

Joint IDPH-DHS change teams are using the Connection Points Report as a starting point for “deep dive” discussions about how the two departments might align their work more closely. These discussions are wide-ranging. They may explore the benefits of IDPH and DHS staff meeting jointly with families or provider organizations where they currently meet separately. They may involve sharing data, technology, or other tools and resources. They may explore opportunities for staff members that provide similar services to different populations to team up, share insights, and combine efforts. They may identify ways to draw on funding or other resources in one department to increase the impact of work being done in the other department.

“Deep dive” discussions have begun and are planned to continue into September. Currently planned areas of discussion include Adult Protective Services, Aging, Behavioral Health, Child Protective Services, Child Care, Early Childhood, Family Support, Food and Nutrition, Health Promotion, and Maternal Health. These discussions will ultimately lead to a *Preliminary Change Package*. **Internal IDPH and DHS staff as well as external stakeholders across Iowa will have opportunities to review, discuss, and provide feedback on this preliminary change package before it is finalized and readied for implementation.** We will continue to provide more information through email updates and on as the process progresses.

Please also visit the [HHS Alignment FAQs page](#). Please note that the FAQs page is an ongoing endeavor. We encourage you to check back for updates, as we will continue to add more questions and answers as we have information to provide.