

From: Kelly Garcia, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa Department of Human Services

Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021

To: All Staff

Subject: Alignment Update

As we at the Departments of Public Health and Human Services go through this alignment process, we continue to learn more about the connection points between the two agencies. As such, we are actively moving toward a one-agency structure. To meet the ever-evolving health and human services needs of Iowans, we need to provide the people of Iowa well-connected access to services and supports, and more consistent communication and support to state and local partners. To these ends, over the past few weeks we have:

- Conducted 26 “deep dive” working sessions to identify recommendations and options for strengthening alignment in areas of Aging and Disability, Behavioral Health, Food and Nutrition, Health Promotion, Supports to Families, and Maternal Health and Childhood
- Engaged in this “Change Team” work with close to 40 staff members from a range of business units and roles across IDPH and DHS
- Begun preparing to present a preliminary change package to health and human services stakeholders across Iowa for review, feedback, and discussion
- Met with key partners from local public health to listen deeply to their insights, suggestions, and concerns
- Begun planning similar meetings with other key state and local health and human services partners
- Begun exploring options for an integrated health and human services organizational structure

We are committed to and excited about continuing to expand the circle of knowledgeable and passionate people involved in this alignment assessment. Consistent with this effort’s [project plan](#) and [timeline](#), we are getting ready to invite health and human services stakeholders across Iowa as well as all IDPH and DHS staff to review, discuss, and provide feedback on a preliminary change package coming out of the work of Change Teams and Alignment Project Team.

Please look out for invitations to web-based sessions posted to the website and emailed through this same channel in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, if you have any other questions or concerns, please review this effort’s [frequently asked questions](#) and/or [contact us](#) through the website.