

Iowa

[CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES STAKEHOLDER PANEL](#)

State-level child welfare advisory committee

Background:	Leadership staff from Iowa Children’s Justice, Iowa Department of Human Services, and consultants from the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI) met to develop the draft charter for the Iowa Children and Family Services Stakeholder Panel. The charter was created in December of 2006 and approved by the stakeholder panel in January of 2007. The Stakeholder panel met quarterly from 2006 to 2010.
Purpose/Scope:	<p>The Department of Human Services Division of Child and Family Services and the Iowa Judicial Branch have created the Iowa Child and Family Services Stakeholder Panel in order to more actively elicit input from a diverse group of Iowa citizens who have a stake in the child welfare system. The Division and the Court retain decision-making authority in those areas in which they have responsibility under federal and state statutes and regulation.</p> <p>The purpose of the Child and Family Services Stakeholder Panel is to provide consultation and actively involve stakeholders in the Division and the Court’s child welfare initiatives and programs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP), so that this plan reflects initiatives and activities going on through communities, private providers and other stakeholders that help the state meet federal expectations;• Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) Statewide Assessment;• CFSR onsite review;• CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP);• Achievement of federal outcome measures;• Review of local practice and our role in assisting children and families to achieve permanency; and• Identification of emerging issues and/or needs and discussion of possible impact on child safety and permanency.
Stakeholders Involved:	<p>Iowa is a state-administered child welfare system.</p> <p>The Iowa Judicial Branch and the Iowa Department of Human Services leadership partnered to create and co-chair the Iowa Child and Family Services Stakeholder Panel. Iowa Children’s Justice is part of the Iowa State and Court Administration and the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) (child welfare) is housed in the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS).</p> <p>Recommended Panel Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consumers: Youth; Birthparents; Foster Parents; Kinship Care Providers; Adoptive Parents.• Court: District Associate Judge; Associate Juvenile Judge; Chief Juvenile Court Offices; Juvenile Court Officer.• Legal Representatives: County Attorney; Parent’s Attorney; Assistant Attorney General; Guardian ad litem; Middleton Legal Clinic; Division Administrator; Iowa Child Advocacy Board.• DHS: Transition Planning Specialist; Service Area Manager or Social Work Administrator; Social Work Supervisor; Social Worker II and III; Toledo Juvenile Home.

- **Providers:** Large multi-service child welfare agency; Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children; Small in-home family support agency; Youth development organization.; Community Mental Health/Substance Abuse provider; Community Care; Family centered agency; Shelter care agency.
- **Public Interest Groups:** Child and Family Policy Center; National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Director; Youth Policy Institute.
- **Domestic Violence:** Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
- **Community Partners:** Tribal Representatives; Community Partnership for the Protection of Children; Decategorization Coordinator; Faith Community; Child Protection Center.
- **State-level Partners:** Coalition for Family and Children's Services; University of Iowa – School of Social Work; Children and Family Services, Department of Education; Executive Director, Iowa Foster & Adoptive Parents Association; Director, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa; Division Administrator, Substance Abuse, Department of Public Health; Iowa Plan; Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning; Department of Human Rights – Division of Latino Affairs; Department of Human Rights – Commission on the Status of African Americans; Mental Health and Disabilities Commission.

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