

IOWA BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

Spring 2024



Iowa Workforce Development



IBC on the Road

The State Rehabilitation Council hosted a Legislative Reception in January (pictured above). There, participants had a chance to talk to legislators about the issues facing Iowans with disabilities, and the importance of giving everyone access to Community Integrated Employment opportunities. They also talked about the return on investment for supporting CIE initiatives, by sharing success stories. We are thankful for all of our supporting legislators!

Collective Update

The first few months of the new year brought about great progress and fresh ideas to the Collective. We want to thank everyone who has joined, and who have participated in the workgroups to move the needle towards progress and change! While the Collective has grown in its diversity of stakeholders and participants, we are still looking to expand the inclusion of self advocates, individuals with lived experience, and business representatives. We encourage all members to invite others to join, so that all Iowans can be represented in the Collective.

Scan the QR
code to visit our
webpage!



Save the date: Lunch & Learn Series

IBC is facilitating a quarterly Lunch and Learn series for case managers, care coordinators, social workers and system advocates! Consider joining and sharing with anyone that would benefit. Register with the links below!

June 26th 12-1pm: [Register here](#)

September 25th 12-1pm: [Register Here](#)



Policy Update

[HF 2589](#) Work Without Worry/Right to Repair bill

- In the House Appropriations Committee and needs to be assigned to a subcommittee

[HF 2232](#) allowing companies to get a single license for workplace interpreters for deaf and hard-of-hearing employees

- Needs Senate vote to move to Governor's desk before it can be signed into law.

[HF 2667](#) & [SF 2236](#) increases the tax deduction for those who put money into an Iowa ABLE (IAble) account.

- HF 2667 is on the House Calendar and ready for debate. SF 2236 is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

[SSB 3183](#) increases the value of assets that a married couple can have under the Medicaid for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MEPD) program.

- With full Ways and Means Committee but has not yet been scheduled for a vote

Transition Services

Two pilot sites were selected to partner with IBC to implement innovative transition services in their area. Linn Marr and Waterloo school districts will work with their identified Community Rehabilitation Program (CRP) providers and will receive technical assistance and training from Griffin-Hammis Associates (GHA) to provide Customized Employment (CE) services to transition students.

Where we've been and Where we're going

Check out Iowa's [Seed Policy Brief](#) with recommendations for becoming a model employer of people with disabilities, and [Iowa's Policy Crosswalk](#), which details the history of Employment First policy and makes suggestions for additional policies that should be considered.

This summer the Policy Workgroup will connect with additional stakeholders and policy makers to collect data, develop education and outreach content, and outline a disability employment policy agenda to innovate and grow opportunities for CIE in the state. If you'd like to know more about policy or are considering joining the policy efforts, reach out to Ben Grauer at ben-grauer@uiowa.edu

New Resource!

Check out ODEP's [CIE Transformation Hub!](#) Resources are available for individuals with disabilities & family members, employment service providers, state agencies, & Employers on increasing opportunities for Competitive Integrated Employment.

-Community of Practice- Changing the Narrative

- This workgroup is looking for self advocates and individuals with lived experience across the state who would be willing to be part of efforts to share stories and dispel myths related to community integrated employment! If you know someone who is interested in learning more about what their role could be in this effort, please have them reach out to Kelly Strydom at kelly-bumpus@uiowa.edu
- The Collective is also working on developing resources for employment specialists to give to businesses to address the benefits of hiring individual with disabilities, navigate how to access and implement accommodations, and other helpful tools. The Changing the Narrative workgroup is also working on updating the Employment 1st Guidebook. One tool that IBC is looking further into is the purchase of Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) for Iowa, which would increase access to information regarding disability benefits and how they are impacted by employment income.

Registered Apprenticeships

If you are interested in being a supporting business or educator for registered apprenticeships to train and increase the workforce of Direct Support Employment Specialists, please reach out Ashley Banes for more information on how to get involved- ashley.banes@iowa.gov

Team Member Spotlight

Darcey
Sebolt



Mandy
Hatten

Meet Iowa's IPS Trainers & Fidelity Reviewers! Darcey and Mandy, from UIHC's Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health, are partnering with IBC to expand IPS and IPS-Youth to more of Iowa's providers and schools.

Steering Committee Established

A component of the [Collective Impact Model](#), that IBC builds its foundation on, is to have a Steering Committee that provides strategic guidance, vision and oversight. Its members offer their leadership by being vocal champions of the collective impact effort.

IBC's Steering Committee is made up of a smaller group of stakeholders and includes people with disabilities, family members, leaders from Businesses, Iowa Medicaid Enterprises, Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Education, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa's DD Council, ASK Resources, Drake University, Center for Excellence in Behavioral Health, Easter Seals, Iowa Association of Persons Supporting Employment First, Disability Rights Iowa, and the Iowa Association of Community Providers. Our business leaders come from John Deere, Kwik Trip and Top Rank Culture. These diverse perspectives bring a powerful voice to this project. The first Steering Committee meeting was held in February 2024.

Interested in getting involved in the Collective or learning more about a workgroup? Reach out to any of the below contacts for more information:

Registered Apprenticeships: Ashley Baner
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Transition Workgroup: Paul Fuller
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Policy Workgroup: Ben Grauer
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Changing the Narrative: Kelly Strydom
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IPS or IPS-Youth: Mandy Hatten
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The Collective: Brandy McOmber and
Judy Warth
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This Collective and its
efforts would not be
possible without every
one of you!

*Thank
You*