**Vision Council Meeting**

March 15, 2023

**Attendees:**

Ashley Velez

Chris Koepplin

Cody Crawford

Kayla Powell

Kristie Oliver

Kristina Seier

Kyle Conway

Linda Dettman

Mary Beth O’Neill

Tonya Blasen

**Meeting Purpose:** To continue momentum toward creating a system where “Families & Children in Iowa are safe & secure, healthy & well in their communities.

**Meeting Results:** Welcome participants. Participants are aware of work being done across workgroups. Make action commitments that sustain the work.

**Result:** *Gathered and ready to work together.*

Vision Council members completed an activity to level set and understand each member’s level of action and alignment to the vision of the Vision Council. This allowed for everyone to understand where everyone observed themselves in how much they have taken on to make progress towards the vision, as well as direct alignment to the vision and action items.

***Results:*** *Shared understanding of work connectedness*

Vision Council members completed workgroup meetings to acquire updates on progress for individual workgroups to present to the full council.

**Groupwork Share:**

*Older Youth Workgroup (OYWG)–* The focus of OYWG continues focus on integration of Healing Centered Engagement (HCE), coined by [Dr. Shawn Ginwright.](https://flourishagenda.com/team/shawn-ginwright-ph-d/) Andrea & Kayla created a roadmap for Juvenile Justice practices and wanting to replicate within worker force. **For example, what policies are in contradiction to HCE and how to integrate HCE language into policies and practice?** Current identified practices revolve around Iowa youth detention centers: youth are in orange jumpsuits, refer to store within as commissary, and that youth have been asked to pay for phone calls to family. These all conflict with HCE practices that we should support youth aspirations.

\*The Vision Council has created a HCE book club that will meet on a scheduled basis. Kristina & Andrea are ensuring those that requested physical copies of the Four Pivots receive them. Planning will be completed to pick dates/times, breakout rooms, and a live document to notate thoughts and questions as people move through the book.

\*one juvenile court using community HCE in practice and district workers are working on integrating practices, HCE is imbedded in [Juvenile Justice Task Force](https://www.iowacourts.gov/collections/778/files/1722/embedDocument/) recommendations

\*Pushback from HCE has revolved around the understanding of it’s use, the language, and talking points to utilize in conversation with those that are curious about HCE. A mini guide is still in the works that will be shared with this group once finalized (Andrea & Kayla). How can we encourage others to put in the work?

\* JCS has created an authentic engagement team that meets monthly to show where authentic youth engagement is showing up at a state level, as well as district teams. **How can the state support this work?**

\*Chad Jensen’s leadership has helped move things forward, but **how can we**

**ensure trickle-down into other court systems? Can we utilize a partnership with Lori Frick to help permeate HHS with HCE language and highlight at the Child Welfare Provider Contract Partnership meeting?**

\*The pre-charge diversion program has received a federal grant for 3 communities and additional communities (3-5) have been approved to integrate HCE into the program. \*Legislation was introduced this session to approve a statewide pre-charge diversion but didn’t receive traction.

\*Creating the Office of Youth (ICYD currently exists) - **where can youth thrive within the alignment of HHS?**

\*Family Finding- discovering connections tools written into CISR contracts and needing to be fleshed out in practice as well as ensuring a partnership is maintained between providers and HHS for results of this work

\*The Coalition’s Residential Workgroup continue efforts with [Dr. Hess](https://cfcs.memberclicks.net/assets/VisionCouncil/12-7-22%20Conversation%20with%20Dr.%20Hess%20Notes%20%281%29.docx) (notes from first meeting) including touring provider facilities and thinking through his Six Domains. How can we integrate HCE language into the [Six Domains](https://cfcs.memberclicks.net/assets/VisionCouncil/COPY%20QRTP%20Six%20Domain%20Analysis%20Document.pdf)?

\*Gun Violence intervention within Scott County – pilot projects are continuing, **how to continue & replicate these interventions?**

*Substance Use Disorder Workgroup (SUDWG)* – This group continues to focus on the utilization of the short CVI and the discussions around mental models. Exploring why might someone (caregiver) not want to talk to HHS.

\*The short CVI has been utilized in HHS substance use basic trainings, including five questions/statements to rate from the original survey:

1. People who abuse alcohol and other drugs have a disease for which they need treatment.
2. People who abuse alcohol and other drugs should be held fully responsible for their actions.
3. There is no way that a parent who abuses alcohol or other drugs can be an effective parent.
4. In assessing the effects of the use of alcohol and other drugs, the standard we should use for deciding when to remove or reunify children with their parents is whether the parents are fully abstaining from the use of alcohol or other drugs.
5. Parents who have been ordered to remain clean and sober should face consequences for noncompliance with those orders.

\*These led to discussions surrounding mental models of those in trainings: newly onboarded, or workers that had not taken it previously since it was first introduced about 3 years ago. Responses are not tracked outside of that training and is reported through anonymous polling. Nor has a pre/post test method been utilized. There is interest in incorporating the short CVI within the Child Welfare Training Academy – **does this group have recommendations on how it is used? How to track the data? Is there a way to survey families before and after HHS or other providers take these trainings? How can we incorporate HCE into it’s usage? What do we have control/agency of?**

\*Reporting out on Tachelle’s day at the State of the Judiciary for Parent Partners call-out and discussing recovery in its realities that was public sharing. Tachelle was joined by another Parent Partner, a mom she had worked with previously. Both are examples of how substance use does not equate to bad parenting, and that people can make and learn from mistakes. Stating, “We are not always throw-aways”. That there is not only benefit, but a necessity in investing in families that are living with substance use disorders.

\* Intentionally thinking about vocabulary used with caregivers involved with HHS. How can HCE approach and language show up; seeing how the practice & modeling of healthy reactions, and processing of trauma with healing approach shows up with caregivers and their children. Thinking about prevention tactics to show up before its needed, other reactionary coping mechanisms and diversions: community involvement- learning about what is working and how to implement upwards. **Was it tools/coping mechanisms or having a positive/prosocial model that cared about that person, leading to positive outcomes for families (or both)?**

\* Identifying community leaders that are ready to help – **where can we start with this? Creating less of an emphasis on meeting goals of sobriety or other checklists, let's do these things because we love our bodies, encapsulating love, kindness, healing in all practices**

\*[START model](https://cfcs.memberclicks.net/assets/VisionCouncil/START_Chapt%201_092118_FINAL.pdf) (pdf) & ([8m video](https://www.cffutures.org/start-home/discipline_materials-2-2/)) – intensive case management with recovery coaches (Parent Partners for Iowa) – who implements: California is assisting for technical assistance, finalization of funding is happening. **How can we help the state with getting this pilot study up and running? How can we uplift Parent Partner voices in how it is structured?**

\*Legislative State Court Administrator have no funding for expanding drug courts, looking at infusion courts - **what does this look like and how do we ensure it still encapsulates all of the positive work from Family Treatment Courts for better outcomes?**

\*Reporting out: youth are not utilizing substance use services, beds (for this service) are unused, where are youth going and how do we ensure that they (HHS or other community services) are catching youth before touching the system – **presentation by Deann Decker, where is the data coming from?**

*North Star Workgroup (NSWG)* - This group is focused on getting systems to talk to each other – exploring the differences in definitions of homelessness & age rage (HUD funding is 16-24 but youth has to be homeless, which is based on different definitions by service)

\*[Lived Experience Board (LEAB)](https://www.humilityhomes.org/leab) under Humility Homes and Services provides a way for those that have experienced the housing system to be actively involved in decision-making while being compensated

\*Affordable housing laws – looking at prevention piece rather than once involved. HUD does not require any services **- identify when to make services available, how to incentivize, making it convenient, can we develop a model that has enveloped supports, or ow to flip the script of benefit by requiring services?**

\*HUD (no required services) v SAMHSA only money for services – possibility to have together, but is case-by-case, and still need additional money to fund through donors as it will run out before meeting full person’s needs

\*Mainstream vouchers are for people living with a disability, substance abuse counts as disability, (Public Housing Agencies are not going after them) + Youth vouchers (different than FYA vouchers). **How are we educating Public Housing Agencies or other entities (like landlords) on necessity of using these vouchers? It is guaranteed money! How do we work around the HUD requirement of safe, up-to-code housing? Is there grant money that be utilized here?** Kayla & Ahsley

\*Department of Justice grant for funding for people exiting system(s) and implementing supportive housing through a [Pay for Success Model](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/101111/how_to_launch_a_supportive_housing_pay_for_success_initiative_1.pdf) – HUD does not fund permanent housing for *families*

\*[Waypoint](https://www.waypointservices.org/what-we-do/housing-homeless-services/tenant-academy-1) – FourOaks has openings in housing programs, **how are we ensuring people are aware of vacancies?** Coordinated entry needed to access services (including shelter!): 4 regions of coordinated entry and multiple area agencies (Waypoint has the ability to service the whole state). **How do families know what is out there? How can we uplift – educating (not readily available nor easy to understand, so how do we make it more usable), business cards, fliers, utilizing Craigslist or Facebook**

\* Four Oaks- purchased a building: first floor offices, floors two and three will be affordable housing, but need flexible funding – **how can we move this forward?**

***Result:*** *Make action commitments to continue momentum.*

**Large Group Work**

This group worked on attainable action steps to complete by the next meeting.

**Andrea** is committed to facilitating HCE book club

**Andrea & Kayla** are committed to scheduling – once a month? Pick a day and time and meet with incorporated breakout rooms on zoom to account for potential power dynamics that may show up that mitigate vulnerable conversations.

**Kristina & Andrea** are committed to ensuring all Vision Council members receive their physical book copy.

**Chris** is committed to following up with Andrea on how to get the HCE book club up and running.

**Mary Beth, Chris, Kristie/Kristina** are committed to embedding Six Domains with Healing Centered Engagement language.

\*Thinking about having trainers (CWPTA) read The Four Pivots? HCE is Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI)

**Ashley** is committed to communicating with CoC’s on housing education piece about vouchers and will connect with Kristina to share out to the NSWG group (including Jesse & Courtney, coordinated entry piece, and SHIPA in IL on how they educate).

**Mary Beth** is committed to discussing with Four Oaks’ housing team about educational materials to share with NSWG and learn about coordinated entry alongside Ashley.

**Cody** is committed to asking (HHS) how we keep track of families after reunification and how are we asking.

**Tachelle** is committed to educating the families she works with on the complexities of housing: where opportunities exist, vouchers, and thinking about where the gaps are and where to expand. This group will also think about where Parent Partners can present to educate both agencies on practices that will benefit families in the system(s).

**Kyle** is committed to acquiring voucher data.

**Linda** is committed to sharing out about START model.

**This Vision Council** is committed to changing meetings to bi-monthly with the full group.

**Those committed to the Healing Centered Engagement book club:** Mary Beth, Chris, Kristie, Kristina, Kayla, Tachelle, Kyle, Andrea, Anne, Ana, Katie (non-VC member), Andrew, Robert, Jen, Lori, Devon, Stephanie, & Kathy H.

\*Those that are interested in joining may contact Kayla Powell or Andrea Dencklau

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead*