ACEs Policy Coalition
Lobby Day
January 23, 2020
- Personally connect with key legislators
- Educate legislators on Adverse Childhood Experiences and fostering resiliency in Iowa
• Parking: ([map])
• Public entrances are located on the ground floor on the south and west sides of the building
• Upon entrance into the building, you will walk through a security scan
• Capitol floor maps may be found here
• Dress: business casual
Logistics

- 7:30-7:45
  • Meet in room 116 of the Capitol
  • Prep for meetings, review materials
- 8:00-9:00
  • Large group meetings with key legislators
- 9:30
  • Meeting with Governor’s staff
- 10:00-12:00
  • Targeted meetings with individual legislators, schedule in advance, or policy coalition members can help you locate (https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find)
  • Committee Meetings
  • Participants are welcome to attend any relevant committee meetings (e.g. Health and Human Service appropriations subcommittee), schedule TBD
• **Process to “Call Out” legislators**
  
  – Circle “waiting to see you”
  – Indicate name and where you are from
  – Include your cell number so they can reach you before you leave the building if they cannot see you immediately
  – Hand the slip to the doorkeeper and wait for a response. Sometimes it may take 10-15 minutes to come out.
  – If your legislator is not available or not in their seat, a page or doorkeeper will come back out and call your name (Listen carefully—it can be loud)
  – Sometimes a staff person will come out to speak to you if the legislator is occupied. Be polite and treat this staff person as you would the legislator— a lot of times the staff person is a friend, relative of the legislator.
  – Be prepared and be patient.
• After the Meeting... send a follow-up thank you note
  – This provides an opportunity for the following:
    • Briefly recap your position/issue and request
    • Make any additional points you had no time for or forgot to say at the meeting
    • Provide answers to questions that needed follow-up
    • Include additional fact sheets, stats, etc.
• Our 2020 Legislative Agenda focuses on key policy items that will build a Resilient Iowa:
  – Support the development of a comprehensive children’s mental health system
  – Improve the health and well-being of Iowa’s kids
  – Increase prenatal and maternal health community support
  – Advance a trauma-informed child welfare system
SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM
Legislative Asks:

- **Provide adequate funding** to address the current patchwork of children’s behavioral health services
Legislative Asks:

- Expand programs that support prevention, early identification and early intervention for children’s social-emotional development (e.g. extend the 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative statewide)
Legislative Asks:

- **Promote recommended universal social, emotional and cognitive developmental screening** as recommended by the Universal Screening Panel convened by the Children’s Behavioral Health System State Board
Legislative Asks:

- **Address workforce shortages within children’s behavioral health** through workforce incentives such as Future Ready Iowa, tuition reimbursement programs, tax credits for behavioral health professionals, and student loan forgiveness programs. Such incentives should include a focus on increasing providers of color.
INCREASE PRENATAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH COMMUNITY SUPPORT
Legislative Asks:

- **Increase access to prenatal and maternal health home-visitation services** as a primary prevention and early intervention strategy for childhood trauma and family stress.
  - Home-visiting programs reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect, substance abuse, and interpersonal violence and increase community and social supports for families.
  - Iowa has strong and effective home-visitation programs, with 88% of families having improved or maintained family functioning.
Legislative Asks:

- **Invest funding into local community providers** to reimburse community support services that reduce maternal stressors, reduce cultural and economic barriers to prenatal care, and enhance community connection.
  
  - Sixty-seven percent of Iowa mothers reported at least one stressor in the 12 months before giving birth.
  
  - Twenty-seven percent of Iowa mothers reported sometimes, often or always feeling depressed since the giving birth.
  
  - Local providers have local partnerships to support families.
Legislative Asks:

- **Pilot strategies to increase maternal depression and mental health screenings** during well-child checks for mothers and families on public insurance.
Legislative Asks:

• **Require a study across state departments to review and identify opportunities to improve state policies and programs that impact social determinants of health for infants and women of child-bearing age (including transportation, housing, education, employment, intergenerational trauma).** Reference: Ohio legislative study
IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF IOWA’S KIDS
• Legislative Asks:

• **Protect Medicaid from harmful changes and funding cuts** that would take away health care from eligible children and families
  – Value of Work/Importance of Health Insurance
  – Work Reporting Requirements Don’t Work
  – Cost of Work Reporting Requirements
  – Coverage Losses
• Legislative Asks:

• **Initiate a children’s quality improvement focus in Medicaid** by publicly reporting all Child Core Set quality measures, disaggregating by child demographics (e.g. race/ethnicity) and service location (e.g. region, plan, and provider).
  
  – The Core Sets are important tools states can use to monitor and improve the quality of health care provided to Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.
  
  – Data from the Core Set indicate that more can be done to meet the health needs of Iowa’s kids on Medicaid.
  
  – The state will be required to report all Child Core Set measures in FY2024.
Legislative Asks:

Increase data collection on racial and economic disparities in children’s health in order to promote health equity and reduce disparities in health care access and outcomes

- “If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it.”
- Without that data, there is simply no way to know if we are equitably serving every Iowa child.
- This is important, because across indicators, children of color in Iowa fare worse than white peers, and the gaps in outcomes are worse than in many other states
ADVANCE A TRAUMA-INFORMED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM
Legislative Asks:

- **Reduce the caseloads** of Iowa DHS Social Workers to meet the recommended Child Welfare League of America standards of no more than 12 cases per social worker for ongoing in-home cases
  - 32% of social workers handling child abuse investigations have caseloads of 15 or more.
  - 59% of case workers with ongoing visits to the home had caseloads of 30 or more.
• Legislative Asks:
• **Support a quality workforce** in order to transform and enhance a trauma-informed, culturally competent, and family-centered child welfare system to build and sustain healthy communities.
Legislative Asks:

Address workforce shortages within child welfare through workforce incentives such as Future Ready Iowa, tuition reimbursement programs, and student loan forgiveness programs. Such incentives should include a focus on recruiting and retaining workers of color.
Legislative Asks:

- Expand or increase support and resources for kinship/relative caregivers to keep children and youth connected to family.
Questions?
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