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# IOWA DEPARTMENT ON AGING

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## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON AGING SUMMARY

<b>Conversations across Iowa: 16</b>	<b>Total Attendees: 646</b>
<b>Participants Included:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consumers</li><li>• Caregivers</li><li>• Service Providers</li><li>• Area Agency on Aging Staff and Board Members</li><li>• Legislators</li><li>• County Supervisors</li><li>• Elected Officials</li><li>• Media</li></ul>	

Each conversation began with a presentation of demographics and highlights of House File 45 that mandates the Department on Aging to reduce the number of Area Agencies on Aging. Director Harvey answered questioned and listened to concerns. Frequently asked questions are below.

### Top 3 Gaps in Services:

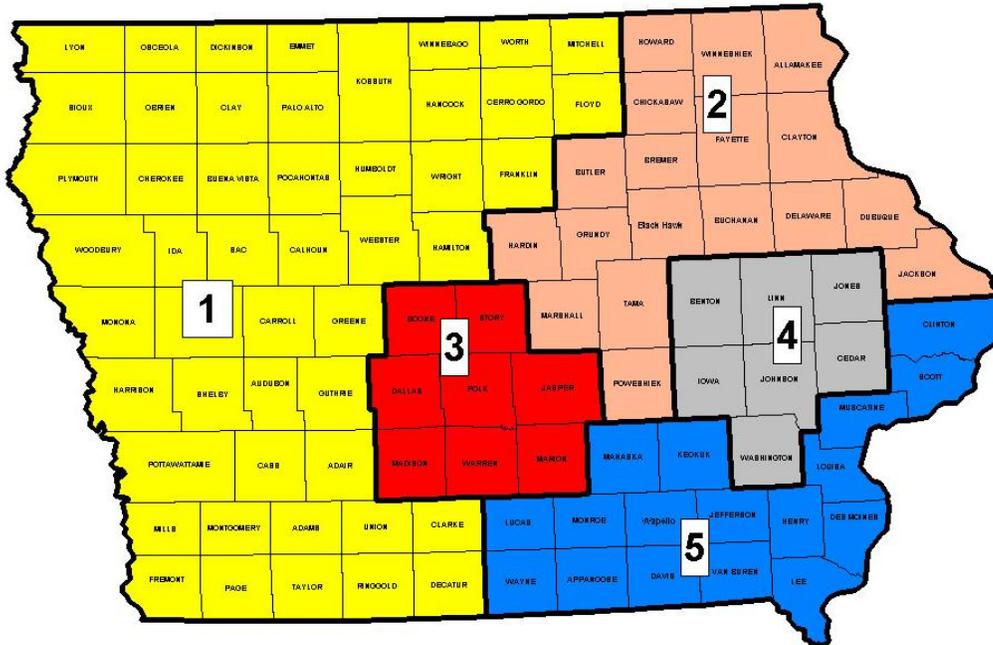


The Iowa Commission on Aging and legislators were provided feedback throughout the community conversations. At the conclusion of the tour the Iowa Commission on Aging met and voted unanimously to:

- Approve the map reducing the number of AAAs (See map below)
- Authorize the Department to begin development of a Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Authorize Director Harvey to prepare the required plan to be submitted to the Standing Committees and Joint Appropriations Committees as soon as possible.

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## Map approved by the Iowa Commission on Aging



Number of Attendees Per Location					
Date	Location	Attendees	Date	Location	Attendees
July 7	Mt. Pleasant	45	August 2	Calmar	16
	Ottumwa	29		Cedar Falls	26
July 11	Coralville	89	August 4	Carroll	34
	Toledo	20		Ankeny	21
July 26	Storm Lake	53	August 9	Dubuque	25
	Sioux City	27		DeWitt	51
July 28	Atlantic	33	August 11	Mason City	47
	Creston	113		Webster City	17

*Our mission at the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.*

# IOWA DEPARTMENT ON AGING

## Community Conversations on Aging

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT ON AGING?

To provide older Iowans with the resources and support they deserve and need to lead productive, vital and dignified lives and to continue to choose Iowa as their home. This will be accomplished by developing a comprehensive, coordinated and cost effective system of long-term living and community supports and services which will help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

#### HOUSE FILE 45

**Can HF 45 be changed or rescinded?**

HF 45 was passed by the House, passed by the Senate and signed into law by the Governor. It is now part of Iowa Code; therefore, the Department on Aging is mandated to enact and to submit a plan of action no later than December 15, 2011 to the Standing Committees for the reduction of the number of Area Agencies on Aging.

**Will the current Area Agencies on Aging have a chance to come up with a plan?**

The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) have been encouraged to work with each other to present a plan of consolidation to the Department. If an acceptable plan is provided to the Department by the AAAs, it will be submitted to the Standings Committee for approval.

**What happens if the Area Agencies on Aging do not come up with a plan?**

The Department will then need to recommend a plan which will be submitted to the Standings Committees as required by HF45. Once a plan is approved, the Department would then issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) according to State Administrative Rules.

**How long will the transition process take?**

HF45 mandates the reduction be effective July 1, 2012, which marks the beginning of a projected 3 to 5 year transition period.

#### WILL THESE TYPES OF GRASSROOT CONVERSATIONS CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE?

Director Harvey is committed to ongoing dialogues in local communities. The Older Americans Act is built upon a "grassroots up" system and this is a positive approach to ensure our customers are part of the development and structure of the state unit on aging and its aging network in Iowa.

#### WHAT CONCERNS/ISSUES WERE EXPRESSED DURING THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS?

**Accessibility of services due to reorganization**

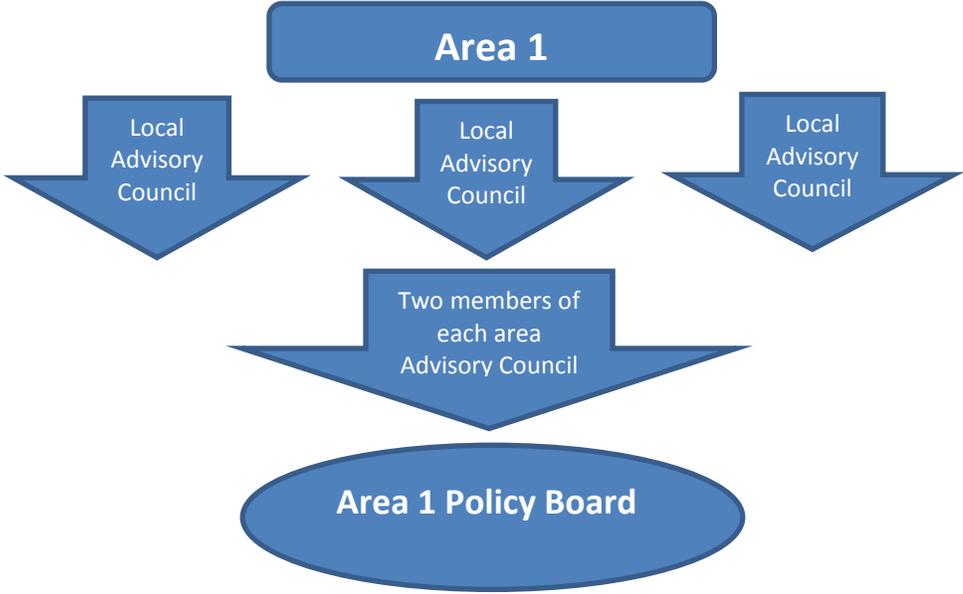
Director Harvey, Commission on Aging, IDA staff and the Area Agencies on Aging are committed to maintaining a seamless, consistent, customer focused delivery system transition.

**Direct Services or Subcontract**

AAA's will continue to determine on the local level whether they provide direct services or subcontract with providers. Federal and state guidelines must be followed with waivers required for certain services should an area agency on aging decide to provide directly rather than contract.

**Volunteer & Advocate Base**

Need to grow the next generation of volunteers and grassroots advocates. Local AAA's working with high schools, colleges, associations, etc.

<p><b>Loss of Local Access and Participation</b></p>	<p>The modernization provides an opportunity for greater local access and participations at the grass roots level.</p> <p>Director Harvey envisions a governing board at each area agency on aging comprised of representation from local advisory councils across the combined areas to provide an avenue for community specific feedback.</p> 
<p><b>Mental Health Outreach, Treatment, Placement</b></p>	<p>Infrastructure needs to be enhanced to better serve persons with mental health issues of all ages. IDA is working with DHS and other partners to address this issue.</p>
<p><b>Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation</b></p>	<p>IDA is working to strengthen elder abuse support and services. Close attention is being given to the Elder Justice Act passed as part of the Affordable Care Act to ensure Iowa’s elder rights programs embrace those principles and strategies.</p>
<p><b>Visibility, Education and Outreach</b></p>	<p>IDA and the AAA network continue to increase public awareness through many approaches. A strategy will be developed with the “new network” of AAAs and IDA in the future.</p> <p>Topics include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and wellness</li> <li>• Options for long term supports and services</li> <li>• Aging Disability and Resource Center (ADRC)</li> <li>• Family Caregiver Support</li> <li>• Elder Justice</li> </ul>
<p><b>Generational Differences</b></p>	<p>Generations have different needs and expectations which need to be identified when long term care supports and services are considered. Again, the Community Conversations is a beginning point to gather different needs, ideas, and approaches as we design the “future”.</p>

<b>Quality of Care</b>	One of the Department on Aging’s priorities is to strengthen partnerships with other state agencies, universities, associations, and other partners involved with aging issues to streamline systems, processes, find efficiencies for a seamless, high quality delivery system. The Community Conversations is an important vehicle for us to work with our customers to ensure we address these issues.
<b>Social Networking</b>	As congregate meal sites and other areas of socialization decrease, be mindful of the need to increase face to face gatherings and activities in the community. Social media such as Skype, Face Book and email can assist with staying in touch with friends and family. IDA is working to design policies/procedures to embrace social networking while still maintaining privacy and security of individuals AND not replacing face-to-face options.
<b>Statewide Availability of Services</b>	A list of core services, identified jointly between the IDA and the AAAs, will be made available across the state. In addition, flexibility will be maintained to customize services as identified by the local community.