



PRESS RELEASE
March 29, 2024

Contact: Ana Victoria Fortes
afortes@usccr.gov

**Iowa Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces
Public Web Briefings on Access to Mental and Behavioral Healthcare for K-12 Students**

The Iowa Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is hosting a series of online public panel briefings to hear testimony regarding access to mental and behavioral healthcare for K-12 students. In particular, the Committee hopes to understand whether this issue presents civil rights concerns related to access to mental health treatment on the basis of race, color, disability status, national origin, age, religion, and/or sex. The Committee intends to provide the Commission with their findings and recommendations on these topics. Three panels are scheduled for the following dates and times:

Panel I: Thursday, April 18, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

Registration:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_VK0pBMUPTDeZw5iQvnxKfg

Access Code: 160 778 0646 | Audio Only: (833) 435-1820

Panel II: Thursday, May 23, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

Registration:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_xMWf9NjZQnSWf65VOagf_A

Access Code: 161 840 3592 | Audio Only: (833) 435-1820

Panel III: Thursday, May 30, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

Registration:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_61PU4pvYQxKvxB42p7ibQQ

Access Code: 161 815 3351 | Audio Only: (833) 435-1820

For updated information on scheduled speakers, visit the Committee's project page:
<https://tinyurl.com/IowaAdvisoryCommitteeProject>.

Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period towards the end of the meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives regarding this topic.

Closed captions will be provided. Individuals requiring additional accommodations should contact csanders@usccr.gov at least 7 business days prior to the meeting to make the request. The Committee will also accept written comments related to this study. Please send written statements on this topic to Corrine Sanders, at csanders@usccr.gov by June 27, 2024.

Committee Vice Chair Henry Hamilton said, "We are very much interested in hearing from Iowa families about their experiences accessing and obtaining quality mental and behavioral health services for K-12 students through this inquiry. The Committee is also looking forward to hearing from experts, advocates, and government officials. The public hearings will assist our understanding of the barriers, if any, to accessing mental and behavioral health services for students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, or national origin. Our final report will inform the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights about this important civil rights issue and encourage further study at the national level."

#####

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 56 Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).