

# AMOS holds fall issues summit in Des Moines



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(Photo: Katherine Klingseis/The Register)

Speakers called upon local elected officials to address several issues, particularly mental healthcare and job training, at an event in Des Moines on Monday.

"People will listen to us because we are working together to create a community where all people can succeed," said Jim Pemble of Grace United Methodist Church in Des Moines.

A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (<http://amosiowa.org/>) held its Fall Issues Summit and Project IOWA (<http://amosiowa.org/>) graduation event at First Christian Church, 2500 University Ave. in Des Moines, Monday night. About 130 people were in attendance, including several local elected officials.

The non-profit, non-partisan community group is composed of 28 churches, synagogues and advocacy organizations from the Des Moines and Ames areas.

The Fall Issues Summit was the culminating event of the AMOS 2014 housing meeting campaign, which began in August.

Mental healthcare was the most spoken-about issue at Monday's summit. AMOS members even did a skit called "WAM" – workforce, access and money – to emphasize their belief in the importance of improving Iowa's mental healthcare.

"This year, it is critical for the legislature to address the capacity of the mental healthcare workforce," said Teresa Bomhoff of National Alliance on Mental Illness, Greater Des Moines.

Jack Hatch, Iowa state senator and democratic candidate for governor, and Ben Hammes, a policy advisor for Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, both addressed a question about mental healthcare and Project Iowa at the event.

AMOS members gave Hatch a "Champion" T-shirt and cape and Hammes a welding helmet for their support.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Project Iowa class also celebrated its graduation at the AMOS event Monday.

Project Iowa helps underemployed Des Moines-area residents receive training to secure living-wage careers. The program, which began in 2012, has graduated 184 people.

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