



## IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS

May 20, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grimes State Office Building, B100

400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

[Slides](#)

**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order:** Aaron Cronk called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:30 a.m., May 20, 2022 with a quorum.

**Council Members Present:** Aaron Cronk, McKaylee Heuton, Michael Bergan, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Megan Lancaster, Jessie Marks, Lee Pool, Karen Thompson, Kimberly Villotti, Rozanne Warder, Sue Wittmack, Stephen Mandler, Melissa Grennan, Eric Locke

**Council Members Absent:** Emma Bouza, John Fuller, Julie Allison, Annette Hyde, Julie Jones, Ryan Tomlinson, Donal Welch, Johnathon Wunderlich, Tonya Weber

**Early ACCESS Staff Present:** Dee Gethmann, Tonya Krueger, Teri Mash, Tim Glenn

**Guests Present:** Karl Waterman

**Announcement:** Kimberly Villotti shared that Dee Gethmann has accepted the position of Iowa's Part C Coordinator.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Marcus Johnson-Miller to approve minutes and a second by Eric Locke to approve the minutes from the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS meeting held January 21, 2022. No discussion. Approved unanimously. [ICEA January 21, 2022 minutes](#).

**ACHIEVE:** ACHIEVE launched April 15, 2022 with several individuals on the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS involved in the effort by serving on the Early ACCESS ACHIEVE team, Iowa Professional Learning Leads, ACHIEVE Professional Learning System, ACHIEVE Task Team and the ACHIEVE Family Engagement. The professional learning and technical assistance is ongoing to support Early ACCESS teams as they transition to using ACHIEVE. A networking webinar was held earlier this week, and it was very well received with over a hundred service coordinators in attendance. The Council reviewed the intake and family interview process which were designed to enhance family-centered services and facilitate intentional conversations during evaluation and assessment. Sample reports and outputs for IFSP teams were shared to show how Early Childhood Outcomes are incorporated in IFSP development and the team summary of present levels of development. The Council discussed that Early ACCESS is regulated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) but does encompass both FERPA and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Karen Thompson from ASK Resource Center shared that ASK has an online training series for families that describes HIPAA and FERPA and the differences between them. The training is on ASK's YouTube channel. Feel free to share with families.

**Nominations and Election of ICEA Chair:** The nominations and election of ICEA Chair for 2022-2023 will occur at the September meeting. The names for nominations must be sent to Council members two weeks in advance of the meeting. Members of the ICEA were asked to contact Aaron Cronk, nominations committee chair, or Dee Gethmann if interested in serving as the ICEA Chair for 2022-2023.



**Family Story:** The ICEA invited Karl Waterman to share his family's experiences with Early ACCESS for his son, Vincent. The Waterman family connected with Early ACCESS through a social worker when Vincent was initially diagnosed and Early ACCESS services were started at 11 months. He received speech-language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, orientation and mobility services and support from the Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (IESBVI). Services were well scheduled and coordinated to meet his family's needs despite their rural location and winter weather. The team focused on early development and foundational developmental skills. Additional connections with Karl from the team would have been helpful for him to be more involved in Early ACCESS services and to be aware of scheduled and canceled visits. Karlton suggested a paper form of attendance for families. He feels a visual may have helped them as a family to see how many appointments they were missing and would have helped him to see what was being missed. He also suggested it would help him see what was being worked on. Vincent transitioned to Head Start when he was three. He made a lot of progress at this time and Head Start and special education services were very helpful for Karl to get equipment for Vincent. Many of the service providers were the same and the transition was very smooth, and he has the same providers from IESBVI. This has really helped Vincent given his multiple diagnoses including autism and blindness. Vincent is now 7 years old. Karlton suggests more videos would have been helpful to give him, as a parent, more visual learning. He shared that it is important to coach the parents within their learning style. He reiterated that he would like to see Early ACCESS ensure both parents are involved and have equal access to materials and information. Karlton feels that the continuity of care from providers was instrumental to Vincent's development.

**Child Find and PR/Marketing:** The ICEA engaged in a discussion about the current and future child find improvement activities while reviewing Iowa's child count, referrals, and referral sources. Data are reflective of about 600 children that exit Early ACCESS between 2 years and 9 months and 3 years of age. The link for Early ACCESS referrals to go directly into ACHIEVE has been updated on IFSN website. Within the referral process there is a way to identify concerns as well as information regarding DHS referrals. Once an online referral is complete there is information shared with the referral source about the AEA that will process the referral. There are a total of 1,197 referrals in ACHIEVE since it launched on April 15th. Referrals received in May have been trending higher than previous months. There was discussion related to the change in the CDC milestones; Early ACCESS may receive more referrals as a result of a change in messaging. This will be something to consider as the Council reflects on referral data and monitors the number of children that go on to receive services in the future.

Teri Mash shared Early ACCESS handouts developed by the Public Relations/Marketing committee with support from the Area Education Agency (AEA) communications team. The handouts have space for each AEA to include their logo and contact information. It would be helpful to have a plan for having these handouts in other languages. Developing content appropriate for birth to age one will be explored in the future as well.

**ICEA Meeting Dates and Times (2022-2023):** The ICEA discussed proposed dates for 2022 and 2023 Iowa Council of Early ACCESS meetings. In previous years, there was a meeting date in mid-March that has been flexible due to weather and scheduling conflicts. Historically, the Council has canceled this meeting; therefore, it was discussed to not have a meeting in March, rather than holding the date on the calendar and then canceling. Based on the discussion and the response of member's availability, the Council proposed the following dates:



ICEA meetings proposed and approved for 2022-2023:

- September 23, 2022
- November 18, 2022
- January 27, 2023
- May 5, 2023

A motion was made to accept the proposed dates by Karen Thompson and a second by Melissa Grennan to approve the proposed dates for the ICEA meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

**ICEA Committee and Signatory Agency Updates:** The ICEA Committees did not have any updates or new information to share with the ICEA.

The Signatory Agency updates included information about the status of the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) which was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs. The Part C funding application for Early ACCESS was posted and Council was notified to make comments. Notification of funding has been received and discussion will occur among the Signatory Agencies to support increased nutrition services and service coordination through Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC). Iowa is considering the opportunity to apply for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) in December 2022 with funds available in January 2023. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) began providing differentiated monitoring and support (DMS) to States as part of its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system under Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). OSEP made a shift from monitoring based solely on compliance with IDEA requirements to monitoring and support focused on both compliance and improving results for infants, toddlers, children with disabilities referred to and/or served under the IDEA. Iowa has been assigned to Cohort 2 and is anticipating an onsite visit from OSEP in 2022-2023. Iowa will engage in a three-phase cycle of DMS 2.0 monitoring activities with OSEP; therefore, the initial preparation has begun.

**Announcements:** It was shared that Julie Beckett, CHSC's first Family Navigator, passed away over the weekend. She was a tremendous parent advocate for children with special health care needs in Iowa and across the nation.

**Future agenda items:**

- Part B data person to talk about child find from Part C to Part B
- Medicaid - Jim Donahue, DE Medicaid Consultant
- ACHIEVE

**Adjourn:** Kimberly Villotti motioned to adjourn the ICEA meeting. Melissa Grennan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

**Next meeting:** September 23, 2022