



IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS

September 23, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Grimes State Office Building, B100

400 E. 14th Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

[Agenda](#)

Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order: Emma Bouza called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:35 a.m., September 23, 2022 with a quorum.

Council Members Present: Rosie Warder (left at 1:00 pm), John Fuller (left at 1:00 pm), Sue Wittmack, Stephen Mandler, Tonya Weber, Michael Bergan, Emma Bouza, Eric Locke, Julie Allison (left at 1:15), Kimberly Villotti, Annette Hyde, Julie Jones, Megan Lancaster, Lee Pool, Karen Thompson (joined at 11:20)

Council Members Absent: Aaron Cronk, McKaylee Heuton, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Ryan Tomlinson, Johnathon Wunderlich

Early ACCESS Staff Present: Tonya Krueger, Melissa Schnurr, Dee Gethmann, Kate Small, Teri Mash, Meghan Miller

Guests Present: Marguerite (Peg) Macek (CHSC rep), Jess Burger (AEA representative)

Nominations and Election of ICEA Slate: Kimberly Villotti of the nominations and membership committee proposed the following slate of officers for approval: Annette Hyde (Chair), Aaron Cronk, (Vice Chair), John Fuller (Parent Representative), and McKaylee Heuton (Member at Large). A roll call vote was taken.

Vote on slate: A motion to approve slate of executive committee members for Council was moved by Rosie Warder and seconded by Sue Wittmack. Vote to approve the slate was passed unanimously.

Election of Chair: A motion to move to the election moved by Emma Bouza and seconded by Eric Locke. Vote was passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Eric Locke to approve minutes and a second by Michael Bergan for the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS meeting held May 20, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

ICEA Committees: Annette led a conversation about committees. Proposed questions were: Are committees meeting our needs? What is working well with our committees? What could be improved?

Helpful: Having a specific task for the committee to work on. Providing a clear purpose of the committee to the committee members.

Historical perspective: We have adjusted the committees based on needs in the past. They can change and the purpose of the committee can change.

Two new proposed committees:



Do we need a public awareness/child find committee? This topic comes up consistently among Council members.

Do we need a committee around Differentiated Monitoring/Support visit from OSEP because we will be having a visit from OSEP next year?

Proposal to pull together these two new committees before the next Council meeting in November. No concerns or questions expressed. Will bring purpose statements for these two new committees to the next Council meeting.

Nominations committee: Working on getting open seats filled and current members reappointed by the Governor's office.

Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS): ([slide deck](#))

Discussion:

The Council will play an advisory role in the visit. Council members may be asked to join focus groups with OSEP reps as part of the visit.

Question: How many states/territories fall in the "Needs Assistance" category? 17 states/territories in "Needs Assistance"; 30 in "Meets Requirements"

Question: Do we track workforce-related data to be able to track whether delays in timelines are due to staff shortages? Yes. And this is an agency reason for delay so it would "count" against us from OSEP.

Today's focus is on proposing guidance on determination levels - criteria, required actions for each determination level, compliance indicator data

Shared criteria and required actions from CO and MI - they use a 90% cut-off; expectation to correct non-compliance and involvement in professional development/TA and increased monitoring

We have been above 95% on C1 and C7 the last five years and most AEAs are above 95% on the C8 indicators.

The data is reported about one year behind - transition indicator data from 2020-2021 will be reported in Feb 2023. Other indicators are 2021-2022 data that will be reported in February 2023. With the transition to ACHIEVE it will be easier to get compliance data in real time and this may allow quicker identification and response to non-compliance by individual AEAs.

Need to make sure that policy and practice match going forward. There are currently real time monitoring and efforts to implement best practices in place across all AEAs.

Proposed criteria (see slide deck)

Michael Bergan moved to recommend the moderate approach (option 2) for differentiated monitoring, motion seconded by Emma Bouza. Motion passed.



Child Find (Indicators C5 and C6) Discussion: ([slide deck](#))

Question: Do we collect data on referral sources and completion of a screening? Yes. Additional information will be collected in ACHIEVE to better recognize the reason for referral.

Consider the use of developmental screenings and how that contributes to referrals from primary care providers across the state to identify children as part of child find activities. What is available for providers in counties that don't have 1st Five? This would be something to explore for targeted child find efforts.

Are children born prematurely but not automatically eligible, being referred to Early ACCESS for developmental delays later or do they receive special education services at an older age? Can this be tracked in ACHIEVE? This may be some data to look at in the future. Consider NICU stays and research that correlates to increased social-emotional delays when examining child find efforts. Are these children (children born at 33-36 weeks or children with a NICU stay) being referred and if they are, are they showing delays that make them eligible for services? These are potential questions for a child find committee to explore further.

Early ACCESS Signatory Agency Updates and Reorganizations: ([HHS slides](#))

Information is available at hhsalignment.iowa.gov.

Concern that disability is separate from early childhood in the new organizational chart.

Family Survey discussion:

How will it be distributed? We will use ACHIEVE to send emails and maybe texts to families at Annuals and potentially at Exit also. This may be available in the parent portal as well but there will be multiple methods for families to access and complete this.

Suggestion to ask people who disagree or strongly disagree to explain their response (each item).

Consider how families with an infant might respond or skip question 5 if this is sent out to families that exit before an annual IFSP. Adding "Not Applicable" to "Don't Know" may address this, "Don't Know/Not Applicable".

ACHIEVE family portal: [Highlights handout](#)

Family portal launch date is TBD - still need to finish it and test it prior to launching

Are there any suggestions from the council related to naming the URL for the parent portal?

- include Early ACCESS in the name or explanation for ACHIEVE so families can find it if they search for Early ACCESS
- have a link to the portal that is easily found when searching online for Early ACCESS
- encourage school districts to link out to the parent portal from their website
- include directions to the portal when the family gets the IFSP/IEP



What should be needed to validate an account, is DOB enough in addition to the unique link provided?

- Name and DOB doesn't seem very secure, consider DOB with twins, triplets
- 2 step verification with cell phone number (this would need to match what is entered)
- How would accounts be "reset" if the initial link is lost?

Suggestions/questions about My Family section:

- Add another child button may be confusing for families due to different programs and timelines for children switching to ACHIEVE

Announcements and future agenda items:

[CHSC Early ACCESS Annual Report Summary](#)

The Governor's Office is looking into consolidating the number of commissions/councils they oversee.

Adjourn: Kimberly Villotti motioned to adjourn the ICEA meeting. Eric Locke seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.