

Iowa Autism Council Meeting

Final Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2022

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Buehler-Sapp and Wendy Trotter

Present: Michelle Grant, Betsy Lenzmeier, Cheryl Mulligan, Pam Gronau, Stephanie Boyle, Erika Hertel, Andrea Keith, Wendy Trotter, Evelyn Horton, Caleb Primrose, Beth Buehler-Sapp.

Zoom: Wendy Andersen, Angela Burke Boston, Amy Campbell, Connie Fanselow

Absent: Blake Stephenson, Colin Wixted, Matt O'Brien

Guests: Donna Troxel and Jody Jacklin

Wendy Andersen, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:09 am. Council members and guests introduced themselves. Council members reviewed the minutes from the September 7, 2022 meeting. Edits were suggested and made. Cheryl Mulligan made a motion to approve the minutes as edited, and Michelle Grant seconded the motion. A vote was taken by voting Council members to approve the minutes as edited. Minutes approved.

Bylaws Discussion:

Caleb Primrose suggested we alter the bylaws by eliminating the 3-minute time limit for members of the public to speak. He proposed changing section C to 5 minutes instead of 3 minutes and section E to 5 minutes. The group proposed updating language to take out “speaker” and use public comment and add in language to indicate that presentations need to be approved in advance. Angela Burke Boston mentioned this needs to follow Iowa Code Chapter 21, the state’s “open meetings” statute. After discussion, the group agreed that we need to review these policies and we may need to do an overall review of our bylaws. Wendy Andersen proposed a subcommittee to look at bylaw changes before the March meeting. Michelle Grant made a motion to form a subcommittee for bylaws review, and Evelyn Horton seconded the motion.

Betsy Lenzmeier asked about the designated ex-officio members identified in the bylaws. We currently are required to have a representative from IDPH and DHS. She was wondering if we would be able to still have two representatives now that those two agencies have merged into DHHS, and perhaps have one representative that represents children, and one that represents adults. The Council discussed that they are not sure if there is someone who could represent adult services, but we can certainly ask. Wendy Trotter will try to follow up with someone from DHHS to see what options there are. Wendy Trotter will email Council members to see who is interested in being on the bylaws subcommittee.

Legislative Report Review:

Council members reviewed the draft of the legislative report. Wendy Andersen explained that she would like for members who are tagged in comments in the draft to go into the document and edit those sections. All edits in the draft need to be completed by Nov. 16, 2022.

Wendy Andersen motioned to create a subcommittee to examine what adult services are available in the state. Stephanie Gronau seconded the motion, approved with no abstentions.

Agency Updates:

Iowa Department of Education (DE):

Wendy Trotter shared the following updates from the DE:

- **Autism Navigator for Early ACCESS providers:**
 - Currently enrolling Cohort 8.
- **Social-Emotional Engagement – Knowledge and Skills (SEE-KS):**
 - Washington Elementary in Mt. Vernon, IA just began their second cohort of teachers.
 - Have begun year one of SEE-KS coaching at Kreft Primary School in Council Bluffs, IA.
 - After introductory training day at Grant Wood in September, another school expressed interest in bringing SEE-KS to their building. Wendy will update on who if SEE-KS moves forward with this building/district.

Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP):

Erika Hertel shared the following updates from RAP:

- Autism Basic webinar series also expanding to include sessions in Spanish.
- A subcommittee of RAP expert panel has been working on updating a new Strategic Plan. The updated plan was reviewed by the Council. Cheryl Mulligan suggested one edit. The Council was shown a preview of what the final document will look like with color and pictures, as well as a one page “slick” for quick and easy reference.
- Council discussed supporting the strategic plan. Michelle Grant motioned for the Council to officially support Iowa’s Autism Strategic Plan: 2022 – 2027 as edited, Cheryl Mulligan seconded the motion. Council approved.

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council):

Amy Campbell shared the following updates from the DD Council:

- We are close to hiring a new Public Policy Manager (Bill Kallestad’s old position). They hope to have someone hired by December.
- The DD Council’s legislative priorities have been approved and will be posted on their website soon.
- We have updated our website; combining 3 different sites into one.
- We are hoping to have updated legislative guide posted by end of next week.
- We are hosting a virtual open house with new legislators to learn more about the DD Council.
- Feb. 1, 2023, we have a legislative breakfast scheduled at the capitol – first floor rotunda.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS):

Andrea Keith reported the following updates from IVRS:

- IVRS was awarded more than \$13.8 million through a competitive grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Education to expand opportunities for Iowans with the most significant disabilities to achieve competitive integrated employment opportunities that lead to economic security.
- Iowa is one of 14 states awarded a five-year Disability Innovation Fund – Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment Grant totaling \$177 million. The grants support high-quality

programs that can serve as a model for identifying services, implementing evidence-based practices and addressing challenges associated with access to competitive integrated employment for youth and other individuals with disabilities.

- This grant will allow individuals with disabilities working in subminimum wage positions to access new resources and tools as well as provide coordination between the various service providers. The grant will also increase the resources available during early high school to facilitate uninterrupted transition to competitive integrated employment for youth with disabilities.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) / Autism Support Program (ASP):

Connie Fanselow reported the following updates from HHS and ASP:

- Not many updates in ASP. We are still getting applications and most are approved. We still have had a few denials for families who have insurance but with a high deductible. We are hoping to have data to share with legislators about what kind of applications are getting denied.
- We are still in the process of updating everything for the new combined agency that is now HHS (combined Department of Public Health and Department of Human Services).

Additional Updates/Topics:

The Council discussed moving the June 14, 2023 meeting date to an alternate date due to conflicts. June 21, 2023 was proposed as an alternate meeting date. Council decided to discuss and vote on a June meeting date at our next meeting in March when folks have a better idea of their schedules.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2023 from 10:00am – 3:00pm in Room B-100 in the Grimes State Office Building. Wendy will send out a meeting reminder.

Cheryl Mulligan made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Betsy Lenzmeier seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.