

Iowa Autism Council Meeting

Final Minutes – November 7, 2018

Meeting minutes taken by Beth Buehler-Sapp and Wendy Trotter

Present: Caleb Primrose, James Curry, Andrea Keith, Evelyn Horton, Connie Fanselow, Erika Hertel, Jenny Phan, Rik Shannon, Wendy Trotter and Beth Buehler-Sapp

Absent: Matthew O'Brien, Nicholas Nopoulos, Christine Bowker, Angela Logsdon, Chris Kliwer, and Jeanne Kerkoff

Call-In: Angela Burke Boston

James Curry, Co-Chair brought the meeting to order. The council members reviewed the minutes for the September 12, 2018 meeting. Edits were suggested and made. Erika Hertel made a motion to approve the minutes as edited, and Caleb Primrose seconded the motion. A vote was taken by voting council members to approve the minutes as edited. Minutes approved.

Strategic Plan Update:

Focus Area A (Get a Good Start) –

Strategy 1 (Expand and intensify public awareness of the early signs of ASD and educate the public on the benefits of early identification):

- Wendy Trotter reported that the Autism Navigator Project for Iowa's Early ACCESS providers, through the Department of Education, has begun year four of the project. Early Access is the early intervention system for 0-3 year olds in Iowa. For the last three years, the Department of Education has been utilizing the Autism Navigator online courses to help Early ACCESS providers better recognize early red flags and early warning signs of social communication delays and autism, to be able to make referrals for diagnostic evaluations and sooner, and to better identify the most effective priority outcomes for intervention to make the biggest impact they can, as soon as they can. The initiative is a two-year commitment, with year one being the training tier and year two the implementation tier. Cohort 4 has 52 participants enrolling in year one, or the training tier. Cohort 3 has 52 participants who continued on to year 2, the implementation tier.
- James Curry asked if there has been any data collected regarding efficacy of the initiative. Wendy Trotter responded that at this point, most of the data is self-reported in terms of how beneficial the training has been for the providers. One AEA reported that since the introduction of Autism Navigator training, they have seen an increase in the referral of 0-3 year olds to their autism team – double the amount compared to the previous year.
- Andrea Keith asked if there has been an effort to share information about Early ACCESS and the Autism Navigator resources with Daycares. Erika Hertel reported that Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) and the Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP) has been working closely with Early Head Start and sharing information/resources with them.

- RAP has also started a pilot project utilizing the Autism Navigator Primary Care Course with ten different medical providers in Iowa. More information to come.
- Wendy Trotter asked if it would be possible to get data from Center for Disabilities and Development at University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital (CDD) related to number of referrals, age at referral and percentage that receive a diagnosis.

Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP) Update:

Erika Hertel reported the following updates:

- CHSC has hired a new ARNP for the Ottumwa Center – this provider is one of the ten participating in the Autism Navigator Primary Care course pilot project.
- The ARNP in their Council Bluffs location is retiring, so will have a position to fill there.
- The RN in their Mason City clinic will be trained in the STAT™ (Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers & Young Children).
- A new Family Navigator will be starting in December.
- CHSC hosting a family leadership institute to train families in advocacy skills:
 - RAP sponsored one in Spencer – Advocacy and Communication Skills for Parents
 - Two others coming up this year as well.
- They are also looking to offer a transition training in the spring – just started planning.
- Erika made a one-pager info sheet about the Strategic Plan and distributed it to the group to share with other stakeholders.

Autism Support Program (ASP) Update:

Connie Fanselow reported in FY18:

- Applications down from previous year, but higher percentage approved
- Less applications from families that are over the income level
- 6 applications denied in the last year – one had Medicaid coverage; 2 over income; 3 technically had insurance coverage but their out of pocket cost was too prohibitive
- Overall decrease in expenditures – down 4.3% (\$358,000 compared to \$474,000 last year)
- Rarely are the individuals receiving services for the full 2 years that are allowed
 - most of the time receive services for just a few months
 - often because they are on a waitlist for a waiver and then come off the waitlist
 - a few stopped services because they met their goals
- Since Connie took over the ASP program on January 1, 2016:
 - 93 applications total
 - 86% were male; 14% female
 - Average age = 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ years old
 - Average income = 362% above poverty level
 - Average total amount funds expended = \$27,000/month
 - Average service cost per participant = \$2,350.00/month
 - Average total cost paid by families = \$110.00
 - Average total cost for each child served = \$26,000.00

Connie also reported that for FY19:

- Funding for FY19 will be \$548,000
- Additional \$25,000 allocated to Tanager Place for Social Skills programming – pairing individuals with ASD with typical peers and working on social skills
 - Middle School/High School afterschool program – meets 2 times/week
 - Summer program – meets 3 mornings/week

BCBA Education Grant Update:

Connie Fanselow reported the BCBA education grant funds are reserved separately from ASP service funds.

- In the first round of RFPs, 12 grants were awarded for a total of approximately \$42,000.
- The second round, they received 16 applications, 6 were approved for a total of approximately \$53,000.
- To date, \$95,292.00 has been committed, with only \$54,000 spent.
- Rumored the third RFP will be posted end of this year or next fall.

Legislative Report:

The Council reviewed the draft legislative report. Edits were suggested. Edits will be made and then sent around electronically for second round of review. Final draft will then be generated, reviewed and voted on electronically.

Other Updates:

Andrea Keith reported that ASD and transition has been a big topic for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) this year. She has asked to receive more information to be able to share with the Council.

Angela Boston encouraged the Council to look at House File 2305 related to telehealth.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

Erika Hertel made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Caleb Primrose seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.