

Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

March 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Kate Small called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS to order at 10:08 a.m. on March 8, 2019 at the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines IA and zoom.

Council Members Present:

Paula Connelly, Kimberly Villotti, Eric Locke, Angie Hance, Kori Hans, Laurie Jeans, Emma Bouza, Martha Draayer

Absent:

Marcus Johnson-Miller, Thomas Scholz, Julie Allison, Brittney Magsamen, Casey Abler, Aaron Cronk, Annette Hyde (joined in afternoon)

Staff Present:

Kate Small (Department of Education), Cindy Weigel (Department of Education), Melissa Schnurr (Department of Education), Teri Mash (Department of Human Services), Beth Liehti (Child Health Specialty Clinics)

II. Approval of Minutes

Angie Hance motioned to approve the May meetings with revisions discussed. Kimberly Villotti seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

III. New Member Welcome

Cindy Weigel gave a brief welcome to our new council member, including a sample Roberts Rules of Order, published agenda, open meetings, and acronyms list. She also shared that the Family Engagement Task Team is working on a formal orientation process for new members to be ready this fall.

IV. Collaborating with Community Partners Guidance Document: How can you use this?

Melissa Schnurr presented on a guidance document created between Early ACCESS (EA) and Early Head Start (EHS). The goal of the document is to bring EHS/EA together through the use of the collaboration guidance and self-assessment. HS performance standards and interagency agreements identifying what each partner does. HS requires 10% of those enrolled include children with disabilities. The guidance document may be used with any community partner and is posted on the Iowa Family Support Network website ([iowa family support network website](#)). Teams meet two times per year using the self-assessment and action steps. Kori Hans (Early Head Start) shared her experience using the self-assessment and guidance document. The question was posed to council members: How can we use the tools within our organization?

V. Family Story

The family story was present by Autumn and her daughter Fiona, along with Jenner Kealey (service coordinator through Child Health Specialty Clinics). Fiona was born without a corpus callosum. Initially, she was found not eligible for Early ACCESS because she did not have a "named" condition and evaluation did not confirm a 25% or

greater delay in development. She was then found eligible and received developmental services, nutrition, and physical therapy. She will soon be starting speech (still in Early ACCESS) and did not “qualify” for occupational services so she is receiving outpatient OT.

Early ACCESS has helped with Medicaid/social security/waivers, getting other resources to best support family and assistive devices. Autumn mentioned “I don’t think Fiona would be anywhere close to where she is now without EA”...“the SC helps me keep my head on straight” (helping with all of the medical appointments).

Autumn’s suggestions for improvement to the Early ACCESS system: Fiona didn’t qualify at first because she did not have a name to her condition and had to get special permission due to medical circumstances. Some children do not have a “name” for their physical diagnosis so eligibility should not depend on that. Also, Fiona was denied occupational therapy services because she was “not delayed in that area yet”. Autumn sought outpatient OT and thinks it was a nice compliment to her PT and other services.

VI. Committee Reports

Membership committee: two new parent members have been appointed to the council since the last meeting; Still have 9 open slots total due to two retirements since the last meeting: Early Childhood Iowa and Iowa Insurance Division, 2 family members, 4 providers (anyone who provides a service to young children), 1 legislator; need more males (per governor’s office requirements of membership being equal gender). If someone you know applies, send Kate his/her name so she can follow-up with the governor’s office to make sure they received the application.

Public Policy: did not meet.

Family engagement: met outside of council meeting. They reviewed the four components of the new orientation; sent two sections back for revisions; goal is to have the orientation ready for the fall; need to determine how to share it so it is engaging.

VII. Annual Performance Report Data

State staff presented on the Annual Performance Report (APR) data that is annually submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The APR report has been submitted (usually reported on in January). The council determines what targets are for each performance indicator.

For child find (indicators C5 and C), both under target. Discussion regarding number of families who are not eligible or unable to reach (some involve CAPTA). Idea for a future meeting: include number of referrals and how many go onto services. For indicator C7- (45 day initial IFSP timeline) and C1 (30 day timeline for services), no comments or suggestions. C2 (Natural environments) is a way to focus on working with the family within their routines.

Indicator C4 (Family Outcomes-family survey) Iowa uses a nationally developed survey. There are three areas to report on: helping parents know their rights, effectively communicate child’s needs, and help their child develop and learn. State staff shared an

info graphic as an idea for how to use the data. Parents in the meeting suggested that the infographic may not be super helpful for parents in EA, but would be good to use for referral sources/include when talking to prospective families as part of marketing/PR, Also, include actions of what we did with the data (specifics) on the infographic would be helpful. No comments on indicator C8 (timely transition). For indicator C3 (Early Childhood Outcomes), AEAs might be interested in individual data available to share with the Family Outcomes data on an infographic.

VIII. Update on PR/Marketing Task Team

A Public Relations/marketing task team has been created from the Early ACCESS Leadership group with approval from special education directors. The suggestion to have first PR/marketing task team meeting with Early ACCESS council will count as the “make up” meeting to replace the meetings cancelled in November and January. Kate will send a doodle to confirm a date and time to hold the meeting- likely in late May or June.

IX. Adjournment and Final Thoughts

Federal Part C application is posted (Kate sent the link) - feel free to review and make comment

Preschool Development Grant (PDG) - 1 year grant to do a thorough needs assessment birth - 5 years and write a strategic plan. Ultimately will lead into our next application for 2-4 more years of support. Three things coming as part of this work:

1. Survey of all center-based childcare programs
2. Focus groups and surveys to families
3. Focus groups with non-childcare center service providers

Kimberly Villotti motioned to adjourn the meeting. Angie Hance seconded. The meeting ended at 2:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Schnurr and Kate Small 3/8/19.