

# Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

September 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes

## I. Call to Order

Emma Bouza called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS to order at 10:04 a.m. on September 20, 2019 at the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines IA and zoom.

Council Members Present: John Fuller, Kimberly Villotti, Ryan Tomlinson, Kori Hans, Donal Welch, Emma Bouza (Zoom), Michael Bergan, Casey Abler (Zoom), Martha Draayer (Zoom), Julie Allison, Brook Rosenberg, Jessie Marks, Ryan Hubbert, McKaylee Heuton, Laurie Jeans, Eric Locke, Aaron Cronk, Annette Hyde

Guests Present: Sonya Sellmeyer

Absent: Marcus Johnson-Miller, Angie Hance, Brittney Magsamen, Johnathon Wunderlich

Staff Present: Melissa Schnurr, Meghan Miller, Cindy Weigel, Teri Mash, Tonya Krueger, Rae Miller

## II. Approval of Minutes

Eric Locke motioned to approve the May 2019 meeting minutes as written. Kori Hans seconded and motion approved unanimously.

## III. Welcome and overview

Cindy Weigel welcomed all to the meeting and presented on the following:

- Early ACCESS (EA) Service Delivery Model. Early ACCESS emphasizes routines, coaching and embedded learning.
- Early ACCESS has Department of Education as the lead agency and there are also 3 other signatory agencies: Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services, and Child Health Specialty Clinics at the University of Iowa Healthcare system. Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for children and families in Early ACCESS was reviewed.
- Shared the Iowa Family Support Network website ([www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org](http://www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org)). Getting more online referrals than via the 800 number now. The Iowa Council for Early ACCESS has their own place on the site for materials and orientation.
- Need members for the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Executive Committee and will try to get a slate today to be voted on via email in two weeks from the establishment of the slate.. Need a vice chair, and two other people, one being a parent representative.

## IV. Family story

Sarah Foley shared her family's story - son has Cerebral Palsy (diagnosed at 2 ½ years); started physical therapy at 18 months and they recommended Early ACCESS just before he was 2 years 9 months old. The Foley family declined Early ACCESS services because they only had 3 months of eligibility left. She shared It took a long time to get diagnosis, they got no

Early ACCESS information from hospital (Iowa City) and did not know about Early ACCESS until physical therapist told them about it.

Sarah started a Facebook group for parents with children with Cerebral Palsy- CP Parents of Iowa, A Cerebral Palsy Resource Group - this was her project for the Iowa Family Leadership Training through CHSC and it has grown.

Sarah asked Council a few questions. 1) are children eligible for Early ACCESS without a diagnosis? 2) what does Early ACCESS look like? 3) What are all the services offered from Early ACCESS? Cindy explained no diagnosis is needed. Iowa is a non-categorical, birth mandate state- meaning we are to provide a Free & Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) from birth. Children qualify if they have a 25% delay in one area of development or a known condition with high probability of delay. Cindy stressed that if there is a concern regarding a child's development send to Early ACCESS, let them evaluate to see if child qualifies. Melissa Schnurr discussed how providers work with the family.

Council members had the opportunity to ask Sarah questions. Michael Bergan asked if child received early childhood special education - no because he doesn't qualify for it because he only has a physical disability (no cognitive delays). Laurie Jeans asked how Sarah recognized her son had a delay - he wasn't meeting milestones; walked at 19 months and dragged his toes/always had to push something. Julie Allison connected the story to our marketing work - pediatricians should be targeted; who else? Neurologists, pediatric orthos. Brook Rosenberg wondered if Sarah talked to her human resource department about their son's delays/diagnoses? Important to target business community (PR/marketing) - 76% of Iowa families work outside the home, business community is critical for providing families with information; missed work hours is a motivator for business community to get involved. Jessie Marks - multiple providers were seen, did not receive Early ACCESS information, increasing marketing to those groups. Increase education to providers.

Rae sent Sarah the Iowa Family Support Network website info to share with other families and checked to make sure she knew about 504 Plans for accommodations in the school.

## **V. Committee review**

There are four committees that meet over lunch, they are: by-laws, membership, public policy and parent engagement. Cindy shared descriptions. Council members are asked to join a committee. The committee they select is committee they will be a part of during their term on the Council.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

By-Laws: (Kimberly Villotti, Laurie Jeans, Michael Bergan) - Discussion on committees and the use of Zoom is utilized for membership attendance purposes. Kim will follow up on this.

Membership (Aaron Cronk, Kori Hans, Brook Rosenberg, Melissa Schnurr, Meghan Miller): discussed potential members for the Executive slate, committee members will be contacting other council members about being on the slate; need a strategy to fill positions as members are out-going. Aaron Cronk volunteered to be on the slate for vice-chair. Martha Draayer was

asked to be on the slate. Other parent members of the Council will be asked to volunteer for the parent position on the slate. Aaron will submit slate to Cindy.

Family Engagement: (Emma Bouza, McKaylee Heuton, Donal Welch, Teri Mash, Tonya Krueger, Cindy Weigel) - Discussed helping to get the word out about Early ACCESS and the Council. Discussed other ways to get involved.

Public Policy: (Ryan Hubbert, Ryan Tomlinson, Eric Locke, Jessie Marks, John Fuller, Sonya Sellmeyer) - Committee wonders if any change can be made so that a parent finds out late about Early ACCESS they can still get services for at least 6 months or until they go to school. Committee also talked about marketing - AAP and others who need continuing education credits. How about a 1 hour webinar that doctors could use for continuing ed on Early ACCESS? See if various boards (OT, PT, SLP, nurses, etc) are sharing EA info making sure that their providers know about beginning of life choices.

#### **VII. 2019-2020 Executive Committee Slate**

Aaron Cronk, Membership chair, will email slate to Cindy Weigel via email.

#### **VIII. Public Relations & Marketing Task Team update**

Meghan Miller shared the process the team used to create actions for two focus areas of work. Powerpoint in Council Google folder.

Any new members who would like to join the team, let Meghan Miller or Cindy Weigel know. Brook Rosenberg would like to join.

Updates will be given at each ICEA meeting.

#### **IX. Autism Navigator and Baby Navigator**

Wendy Trotter, Autism Consultant at the Dept. of Education, shared two online resources for families and providers - Autism Navigator ([www.autismnavigator.com](http://www.autismnavigator.com)) and Baby Navigator ([www.babynavigator.com](http://www.babynavigator.com)).

#### **X. Federal monitoring visit for child care**

Julie Allison from DHS reported on their first onsite federal review for child care that was done in August. There were 11 focus areas during the review.

Julie discussed the free training that child care providers are required to take. While it is for child care providers, she stated that it is good for anyone. Here is a link to [ISU Essentials Child Care PreService training](#).

#### **XI. Annual Performance Report (APR) introduction**

Cindy Weigel shared the Early ACCESS Theory of Action and the ultimate goal of serving children in their natural environments and improving outcomes.

The APR has 10 indicators that we measure in Early ACCESS that show we are carrying out the responsibilities of IDEA Part C. This Council helps set targets for measurement of the indicators.

Annette pointed out that the data that is used is data collected in previous years, not current to date data.

**XII. Announcements and reflection**

Nothing shared.

**XIII. Adjournment**

Laurie Jeans motioned to adjourn. Erik Locke seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.