

Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

November 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Emma Bouza called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS to order at 9:32 am on November 20, 2020 on zoom. This meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19.

Council Members Present:

Annette Hyde, John Fuller, Julie Jones, Michael Bergan, Ryan Hubbert, Stephen Mandler, Tonya Weber, Aaron Cronk, Kimberly Villotti, Lee Pool, Megan Lancaster, Kym Stein, Emma Bouza, Karen Thompson, McKaylee Heuton, Donal Welch, Julie Allison, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Jessie Marks

Guests Present:

N/A

Absent:

Eric Locke, Ryan Tomlinson, Jerrica Brink, Brook Rosenberg

Staff Present:

Cindy Weigel, Tonya Krueger, Meghan Miller, Kate Small, Teri Mash, Melissa Schnurr

II. Approval of Minutes

Karen Thompson motioned to approve the May meeting minutes as written. Marcus Johnson-Miller seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

III. Committee Reports

Public Policy - Annette Hyde is chair of this group; discussed children's mental health; identified guest speaker possibilities and websites related to children's mental health

Membership - identified co-chairs (Lee and Aaron), identified to-dos, planning to meet 30 minutes before Council meetings

By-laws - Marcus is chair; discussed portions of by-laws to review more closely; Marcus will send an email and set up a Zoom meeting for the group when needed

Family engagement - Emma Bouza and Kym Stein are co-chairs; discussed work that was done, including orientation materials for Council, talked about updating these materials/making sure they are being used; discussed a resource guide for families; still need to figure out when they will meet

IV. Parent Story –

Jackie Schott shared her family story and experience with Sully in Early ACCESS. He was born at 27 weeks and started Early ACCESS 2 months after being discharged from the NICU as the referral to Early ACCESS was made while he was still in the hospital. She is also a Family Navigator for CHSC; and this month she

started training to be an Early ACCESS service coordinator for Central Rivers. Food for thought: needing to switch providers due to changing district lines within the AEA - impact on family. Sully was diagnosed with autism at 21 months due to U of I having appts available to see a doctor, as well as EA providers recognizing red flags and talking with family about them. The family started ABA therapy the day after they got the autism diagnosis.

- V. Iowa Department of Public Health Early Hearing Detection and Intervention. [Presentation](#)** on Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) from Amanda Hagerman, IDPH EHDI Epidemiologist; discussed health equity and factors that contribute to loss to follow-up after infant fails hearing screens
- VI. APR (Annual Performance Report) Child Find [shared data](#)**; small group discussion - Lee shared a [handout](#) from Family Voices for physicians - important to continue engagement with physicians; more families are keeping their virtual EA visits in the last couple of months compared to the beginning of the pandemic (based on anecdotal evidence in DMPS and Keystone).
- VII. Department of Human Services Update on Childcare during Covid-19**
Julie Allison shared data on how CARES federal funding has been utilized during COVID-19 by childcare. About \$32 million was distributed via rejuvenation grants, monthly stipends for centers and child development homes, essential employee add-on, and provider co-pay reimbursements. Stipends for following CDC guidelines, applied online. Provide essential employees a discount of 25%, applied online to receive money. Families who have child care assistance but are responsible for a co-pay, had their co-pay waived and DHS reimbursed centers for this money. Providers were also paid CCA even if the family did not bring their child during COVID shutdown. Julie showed an overall breakdown of the \$32 million. Projected to spend all CARES funding sometime in December.
- VIII. PR/Marketing Update**
Early ACCESS has updated colors aligned to ACHIEVE (new IFSP/IEP data system to come out in 2021) and i3 (new Procedures website for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education) websites. Note from member to form a relationship with Iowa Board of Medicine to make a requirement for any physician with a license needs to review these materials.
- IX. Committee Groups**
This item has been moved to first thing next meeting. A list of committee members and contact information was shared with council and included in the google folder.
- X. Adjournment**
Kym Stein motioned to adjourn. Karen Thompson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.