



IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS
Minutes - November 19, 2021
[Meeting Agenda](#)

Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order: Emma Bouza, Chair, called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:33 a.m. with a quorum noted on November 19, 2021 in Room ICN of the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building.

Council Members Present: Donal Welch, Kimberly Villotti, Michael Bergan, Aaron Cronk, Karen Thompson, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Melissa Grennan, Ryan Tomlinson, Julie Jones, Emma Bouza, Annette Hyde, Lee Pool, Stephen Mandler, Tonya Weber, John Fuller, Jessie Marks

Council Members Absent: Julie Allison, Jerrica Brink, McKaylee Heuton, Megan Lancaster, Eric Locke, Johnathon Wunderlich

Early ACCESS Staff Present: Kate Small, Dee Gethmann, Melissa Schnurr, Meghan Miller, Teri Mash, Tonya Krueger

Guests Present: Sonya Sellmeyer

Approval of Minutes: Emma Bouza asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by Marcus Johnson-Miller and a second from Aaron Cronk to approve the minutes from the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS meeting held September 17, 2021. The minutes for September 17, 2021 were approved as corrected. [Minutes, September 17, 2021](#)

The Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) opened the meeting with a tribute to Tyler Greene by showing Greene's Eagle Scout project video "[I am Tyler.](#)"

State Performance Plan (SPP) 2020-2025 and Annual Performance Report (APR) FFY20: Kate Small and Dee Gethmann presented information on the status of the SPP 2020-2025 target setting for the results indicators. The ICEA received information about the webinars being held to gather feedback on the SPP 2020-2025. Information about the webinars has been posted on the [Department of Education's website](#). The feedback gathered during the webinars and collected via surveys will be used to establish final targets and improvement activities for the SPP 2020-2025. The Iowa Department of Education administration will have final approval of the targets submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs in February 2022.

The ICEA engaged in a discussion of improvement activities related to Iowa's SPP. The presentation included the state's annual performance for FFY 2020. The ICEA provided input on improvement activities for SPP 2020-2025. For Indicator C4 Family Outcomes, Early ACCESS has been using the family survey developed by the national Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center and discussed the possibility of using a different survey. The ICEA discussed the following considerations for improvement activities: record a "Know Your Rights" video for families which was slated to be developed prior to COVID; discuss parental rights with families over time and in smaller sections; provide information about parental rights as applicable to situations and circumstances; and provide families with information about ASK Resource Center. For more information shared during this agenda item, refer to [Early ACCESS Part C SPP APR Indicators 2020 2025 ICEA 11.19.21](#).



Child Find Improvement Activities (SPP Indicators C5 and C6): Teri Mash and Tonya Krueger shared draft handouts that are being developed to inform families and referral sources about Early ACCESS services. The content was generated by the public relations/marketing committee and reviewed by the AEA communications team. The ICEA provided the following suggestions: translate into Spanish and French; add vision, hearing, and audiologists or link to services; and check reading level.

Additional information was provided about the SPP Early ACCESS webinar which related to child find improvement activities: Every Step representative was part of the webinar and shared that referral postcards have been very well received and additional print materials have been requested. Additional considerations for improvement activities included: Encourage the use of the Iowa Family Support Network - Early ACCESS website, Learn the Signs Act Early, and establishing connections with Iowa's neonatal intensive care units (NICU); offer continuing education for physicians on birth to five; reach out to the Board of Medicine to make beginning of life (birth to five) a requirement; develop media campaigns and commercials similar to IDPH food poisoning; connect with child care, including in home providers, continue to partner with Rachel Swanson-Holm who is working with child care providers about Learn the Signs, Act Early. The ICEA also stated the importance of establishing and/or continuing the partnership with 1st Five to get information to physicians about Early ACCESS. However, it is noted that 1st Five isn't in all of Iowa counties. For more information shared during this agenda item, refer to the public awareness and marketing materials at [Iowa Family Support Network - Early ACCESS](#).

ACHIEVE for Early ACCESS: This agenda item was postponed. It will be placed on the agenda for the January meeting.

Family Story: The ICEA invited Allison Drew to share her family's experiences with Early ACCESS. Drew shared that their family received all the services from Early ACCESS virtually (during COVID) for her daughter who has Autism Spectrum Disorder. She noted that she wished she would have known about Early ACCESS sooner. Drew stated she wished she would have had information about milestones earlier such as being provided this information after the birth of a child. Drew shared that Early ACCESS service providers supported their family with information about her daughter's development as well as provided emotional support. During Early ACCESS visits, she appreciated how the team used a coaching style in which they specifically told her what she was doing well, gave her suggestions of how to improve, and gave her confidence to know she was really helping her child. Drew created a video to share her story: [We Climb Together](#)

Early ACCESS Services: Bouza introduced Tonya Krueger and Stephany Brimeyer to share information about the Early ACCESS services provided by Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC). The presentation provided specific information about CHSC providing service coordination, nutrition, and health services on an IFSP. ICEA also discussed the increasing concerns of children's nutrition, pediatric malnutrition, food allergies, and cost of food. Children at Home may be one resource to help with the increase in costs of food. For more information shared during the presentation, refer to the slides: [IFSP Service Coordination, Nutrition, and Health](#).

SPP and APR Indicator C3 Early Childhood Outcomes: The ICEA continued the discussion and decision making regarding recommendations for Iowa's SPP 2020-2025 targets and



improvement activities. The ICEA discussed recommendations to establish a new baseline and proposed targets for Iowa's SPP 2020-2025 Indicator C3 - Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO). Additional information included national data in comparison to the C3 Indicator: Summary Statement 1 tends to be lower in Iowa compared to national data; and Summary Statement 2 currently is above the national average. It was noted the Summary Statement 2 was affected by a change in Iowa's Early ACCESS eligibility determination. Proposed targets for Summary Statement 1 are being recommended in order to help reach the national averages; and current data for Summary Statement 2 are above the national average so the proposed targets are a slight increase. It is suspected COVID has and will continue to impact these data due to an increase in exits and a decrease in the amount of referrals.

Improvement activities discussed include: professional learning related to ECO in ACHIEVE; embedding the ECO process into ACHIEVE; and supporting the involvement of families when discussing children's current level of development to determine the ECO rating. It is anticipated that future reports generated in ACHIEVE will provide information to guide decision making to improve the system and overall quality improvement efforts.

Small asked for a motion to approve the proposed targets for SPP 2020-2025 Indicator C3 - Early Childhood Outcomes. A motion was made by Karen Thompson and a second from Stephen Mandler. Motion was approved unanimously. The ICEA recommendations will be reported to the Iowa Department of Education and signatory agencies as the proposed targets for Indicator C3. For more information, refer to: [Breadth of Early Childhood Outcomes](#) and [Progress Categories](#); and [C3 Indicator Worksheet Early Childhood Outcomes ECO 11.19.21](#).

Announcements: Bouza asked for committee reports and updates. The public policy committee held a meeting prior to the ICEA meeting. The committee reviewed the Early Childhood Toolkit from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Future activities include reviewing the materials and making suggestions to share the materials with agencies such as: AEA social media network, separate agencies, and the Iowa Family Support Network. The committee discussed a bill in Congress supporting universal preschool and the implications that it may have to bolster Iowa's statewide voluntary preschool.

Michael Bergan shared that there is a public hearing on the realignment of Iowa Departments of Human Services and Public Health. Webinars will start on November 22.

Adjournment: Small asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Melissa Grennan and a second from Mandler. Motion was approved unanimously. Small adjourned the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Next meetings: 1.21.22, 3.11.22, 5.20.22