

***Iowa Council for Early ACCESS
Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2013***

I. Call to order

Kasey Vermillion called to order the regular meeting of the **Iowa Council for Early ACCESS at 10:08 AM on November 15, 2013 in Clive, IA at the Country Inn and Suites.**

II. Attendance

Council Members Present: Gladys Alvarez (Late), Marti Andera (cc), Jeffrey Anderson, Mary Butler (late), Paula Connolly (late), Gary Guetzko, Barbara Khal (filling in for Debra Waldron), Kevin Koester, Julie Hahn (late), Angela Hance, Debra Matzat (cc), LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl (late), Joshua Tessier, Kasey Vermillion, Shari Huecksteadt, Kim Thomas.

Staff Present: Rae Miller, Cindy Weigel, Meghan Wolfe, Kate Small Mykala Robinson (filling in for Chad Dahm),

Absent: Maria Cashman, Heather Moorman, Stacy Kramer, Janet Stauss

III. Approval of Minutes from last Meeting

Minutes from the September 2013 meeting were reviewed and corrected as follows: Heather Moorman made adjourned the meeting. **Motion** made by Angela Hance, seconded by Jeffrey Anderson. **Approved** unanimously.

IV. ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Presentation

Caitlin Suginaka, Iowa Department of Public Health, presented on ACES. Experiencing adverse childhood. Research shows that those who have had adverse childhood experience are more likely to experience more mental health/physical health problems later in adulthood. The more ACES that are experienced, the higher the risk. You can check out Behavioral Risk Factor System online <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/> to see more graphs and displaying demographics. Research suggests that 5 out of every 30 children in classrooms have had a parent with an adverse childhood experience. Neurobiological research has shown that a child who has experienced ACES also has decreased temporal lobe development. Be aware of how experiences may influence feelings and responses to others. What can we do to help parents and families that we know? Invest in programs that support families and prevention. January and February the website should have online modules available to go through action planning and learning more about resources available in working with families. Encourage to look at their website with great videos: <http://www.iowaaces360.org/resources-and-web-links.html>

Discussion centered on reactions to the information and how we can use in our work and in Iowa. Gladys mentioned the Goldie Hawn foundation “Mind UP” which has examples of how to integrate into school. <http://thehawnfoundation.org/mindup/>

V. Family Story

Emily Graber presented her family story. Her son Gabe (now 8) was diagnosed with hypoplastic right heart syndrome while she was 20 weeks pregnant. Didn't know what services were out there besides ill and handicapped waiver/Medicaid. Emily cofounded a non-profit organization called the Help-a-Heart support group www.help-a-heart.com. Their foundation provides financial assistance to families that have been in the hospital for an extended period of time, as well as a support network for families and providing social interaction for families and children. You can select their foundation through United Way. They have several fundraisers throughout the year.

Discussion also focused on how they shared messages between family members (spouses) who weren't at the therapy sessions and how to include them in the Early ACCESS support services. Notes seemed to be helpful for informing other family members. It might also be helpful to tell up front which meetings will have a lot more information and therefore beneficial for a spouse/family member to be there.

VI. EAGL update

Shari Huecksteadt gave an update on the Early ACCESS Leadership Group. Two of the big goals this year are to improve the professional development related to coaching and to improve the IFSP (Individualized Family Services Plan) paperwork. There have been several initiatives throughout the state related to coaching, one Rush and Sheldon, and the other Julianne Woods (Distance Mentoring Model). Had an update for Procedural Safeguards manual for parents. Thomas Mayes (lawyer) came in and really emphasized the need to stress the importance to families that this document helps protect their rights, as well as ours. We are considering coming up with a training video. Consent for Medicaid and the system of payments information is now part of the manual.

Kasey added that when at a breakout session at the OSEP meeting, Nebraska had a small "textbook" that they give to parents. They would remind parents to read certain sections before certain meetings.

Paula mentioned that we should check out what Connecticut and Massachusetts did for their parent surveys; they added a video that talked about why it was important for families to complete the survey and it doubled the return rate.

VII. Committee Reports

Parent Committee:

It would be nice to have something for Day on the Hill like the Jude video. Does Early ACCESS have any resources that we could use? State Team can put the word out through the liaisons.

Public Policy Committee

Great discussion over the lunch hour on how to work “smarter not harder”. Since Iowa is one of the 5 remaining birth mandate states, we might look at how other states gravitated away and what funding streams have they accessed to provide funding for services to kids and families.

Governor’s Report Committee

Shari Hueksteadt reported about what topics they would like to include this year in the report. One page would be ideal, but probably hard to do. This year we will probably try to keep the format the same and maybe see what we can condense. How many kids exit without needing an IEP? It is also important to talk about DMM (Distance Mentoring Model). Maybe we can provide a letter for each region or area that goes along with the governor’s report to see what impacts at both a local and state level.

Membership/Nominations Committee

Gladys Alvarez is the chair of the committee. We have 9 people who have terms ending and have talked to those who are eligible for reappointment. The governor’s office sends out forms. We have one parent we need to replace. The state will come up with a cover letter and everyone from the council will send out. Might also consider having someone from Magellan (Medicaid/insurance) on the Council.

By-Laws Committee

Currently up to date.

Kasey Vermillion adjourned the meeting at **3:08 pm**.

A motion was made by Paula Connelly and seconded by Gladys Alvarez. It was approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Kate Small