

***Iowa Council for Early ACCESS
Meeting Minutes January 15, 2016***

I. Call to order

Kasey Vermillion called the **Iowa Council for Early ACCESS** to order at **10:00 AM** on **January 15, 2016** at the Grimes State Building, Des Moines, IA.

Council Members Present: Paula Connolly, Kasey Vermillion, Shari Huecksteadt, Patrick Judkins, Kimberly Villotti, Gladys Alvarez, Kim Thomas, Angie Hance, Laurie Jeans, Mary Butler, Stephanie Peters, Janet Stauss

ZOOM: Ryan Allen, Marti Andera, Doug Penno

Staff Present: Meghan Wolfe, Diane McDonald-Geotzmann, Kate Small, Cindy Weigel, Andrea Dencklau, Linda Carroll (visiting Bureau Chief of Educator Quality at the DE)

Absent: Jeffrey Anderson, Chad Dahm, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Amanda Kleese, Stacy Kramer, Debra Runau-Matzat, Thomas Scholz, Joshua Tessier

II. Parent Story:

Gena Ten Pas presented her family story to the council. Child was born with heart defect; had a stroke after 3rd open heart surgery at 3 years old (lost some cognitive and physical abilities). Gena used a Michelangelo analogy: slow and steady; did not like his job painting, but it came out beautiful (after 4 years of work he hated).

Message to providers: respect being genuine, authentic; genuinely care, don't try too hard; don't judge - you don't know the family's situation; don't be nervous; even when mom looks like super mom, she likely needs more support/she is trying even harder, give compliments!

Impact on siblings - harbored anger still (about the year that child was born); empathy toward other children; caring toward each other

III. Minutes from last Meeting

September 2015 minutes: suggested change on page 3 re: ASK Resources is disbanding the Early Intervention Parent Alliance. Change to: EIFA (Early Intervention Family Alliance) is reorganizing. Paula motioned to approved. Gladys 2nd motion. Motion approved.

May 2015 Minutes: Point of discussion: What is going on with eligibility task teams? Update will be provided during agency updates. Gladys motioned to approved, Kim 2nd motion. Motion approved

IV. APR Indicators

Members of the State work team presented on indicators from the Annual Performance Report. This report is submitted yearly to the Office of Special Education Programs

(OSEP), due February 1, 2016 electronically. Refer to handout and power point for notes on APR data review.

Council Member Comments

REFERRAL DATA (Part of Child Find C5 and C6): How many children in EA now would not be if we change our eligibility criteria? Hard to know because we are a non-categorical state and no easy way to get the data out. However, Cindy and Tim did some data mining and estimated about 12% of children with IFSPs at the time data were mined would not be eligible if criteria changes (and this isn't very reliable).

Noted that "Count Day" totals are included in the slides/handout which reflects the number of children with an IFSP in Iowa on one day. The total number of children throughout a year is typically about double the number on count day.

Is there a concern about EHDI being all 0's? No, because they work with audiologists who do the referral.

How are targets identified? Conversation with Council members, "These are what targets have been in past, are we comfortable continuing or do they need a change?"

45-DAY TIMELINE (C7):

Family reasons for not reaching 100% - common reason is that child is sick and/or in the hospital

If a region was low (like 80%) then the state would help that region figure out why they are not reaching their goal; if there was a chronic problem then funding would be taken away

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (C2):

This is measured by where the majority of services are delivered, so if 3 of 4 services are in the home and 1 is delivered in an office, it is still considered services are delivered in a natural environment.

FAMILY OUTCOMES (C4):

Drop in percentages the last three years is due to a change in data collection procedures and lower return rates.

TRANSITION (C8a, C8b, C8c):

C8A very slight decrease from prior year. Just slightly under target of 100%.

C8B Iowa met compliance indicator of 100.

C8C Transition conference Iowa was slightly under target of 100% with percent of 99.30. This is a slight increase from prior year.

Discussed that we meet timelines but room for improvement on working with families during transition.

EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES (C3):

What is going on in each region that is creating the big shift in numbers over time and across regions? (Ask EAGL - pg 3 regional graph) training of providers on ECO, different children over time, conditions of children (range of severity)

Early ACCESS closed the gap in the area of Social-Emotional on 68% of kids- kudos to providers and families.

Some providers bring the decision tree to annual meetings and work through it with team members and family (this connects with what Gina - parent - said this morning about being authentic).

V. Agency Updates

Eligibility criteria task teams have been waiting for the guidance to go to the Special Ed Directors and that happened in December, so now task teams can come together. There are two changes on the guidance - 1) premature is defined, 2) foster care is no longer a known condition. The task teams: 1) looking at admin rules to decide if we want to become an at-risk state (changes rules), 2) of the known physical and mental conditions, create a list of specific conditions (medical professionals included)

MIECHV update: Major cut in funding, but we were able to get some additional money so we didn't have to stop serving families. New money was also cut, losing state staff and terminating 4 contracts with agencies that do home visiting (agencies were serving less than 15 families each - in total, 30 families are affected by this cut). Goes into effect March 1, 2016 and the project period goes 18 months. There are additional funds that have been applied for too.

Title V agencies: 23 agencies deliver these services and are affected by Medicaid modernization (98% moving to managed care plan). IDPH can no longer get reimbursed for services except for the 1.5% of those who are not moving to managed care. Will be able to continue to do "informing" (letting people know they are eligible for Medicaid).

Federal Part C application is open for public comment. Kate will send a link.

June 6-8, 2016: Trauma Informed Care conference - Tuesday of the conference Scott Avlin ("Overworked and overwhelmed" author) doing Tuesday morning. Kate will send more details.

VI. SSIP Update

APR Indicator 11, is the new results indicator related to the SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan). Iowa is focusing on improving "I can help my child develop and learn." We are using family-guided routines-based intervention and caregiver coaching

to improve parents' feeling of confidence and competence. OSEP is coming Feb 11 and 12, 2016. Will spend the morning of Feb 11 with Part C state staff and will join the Special Ed Advisory Panel (Age 3-21 Early ACCESS Council counterpart) on Feb 12.

Kasey Vermillion adjourned the meeting at **3:10**

A motion was made by Angie Hance and seconded by Stephanie Peters. It was approved unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kate Small 3/3/16