



## Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

Meeting Minutes May 21, 2021

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Roll call/voting](#)

### I. Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order

Emma Bouza, Chair, called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:05 a.m. on May 21, 2021 via zoom. This meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19.

**Council Members Present:** Michael Bergan, Emma Bouza, Aaron Cronk, McKaylee Heuton, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Julie Jones, Megan Lancaster, Eric Locke, Stephen Mandler, Lee Pool, Brook Rosenberg, Kymberly Stein, Ryan Tomlinson, Donal Welch, Megan Lancaster, Ryan Hubbert, Jerrica Brink, Stephen Mandler, Jerrica Brink; Joined for part of the meeting: Julie Allison

**Council Members Absent:** John Fuller, Jessie Marks, Karen Thompson, Kimberly Villotti, Tonya Weber, Annette Hyde

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

**Guests Present:** Jacqueline Penning, Heidi Sottos, Rachell Swanson-Holm

II. **Approval of Minutes:** Marcus Johnson-Miller motioned to approve the [minutes](#) from ICEA January 15, 2021. Michael Bergan seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

### III. Committee Reports.

Public Policy - No updates reported.

Membership - Kymberly Stein is changing positions so will no longer be on the Council. Meghan Miller contacted Annette Hyde to ask for a new liaison representative.

By-laws - No updates reported.

Family engagement - Kymberly was co-chair so looking for a new co-chair. Teri Mash will be sending an email of updates to the team.

IV. **Vote on Chair for 2021-2022:** Emma Bouza volunteered to be Chair again next year. Members unanimously approved Emma Bouza as the Chair of the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS for 2021-2022.

- V. OSEP SPP/APR Target Setting FFY 2020-2025:** Council is one of the stakeholder groups that provides input on Iowa's State Performance Plan/Annual Progress Report (SPP/APR) targets for the SPP/APR Part C indicators. The Council will participate in facilitated discussions to establish targets beginning during the September 2021 Council meeting. The process for stakeholder input and establishing targets are being coordinated and aligned with IDEA Part B.
- VI. Family Story:** Heidi Sottos, mother of Haven (5 years old), who experienced a brain injury during birth shared their family's story of Early ACCESS services. The services from Early ACCESS were essential in providing the family with services, resources and support. The Early ACCESS team contacted the family within a few days of coming home from the neonatal intensive care unit. The team helped the family understand Heidi's needs and help her and the family. The coordination was seamless and the family appreciated the support from the team, referred to by the family as "Haven's angels." The coordination of therapies being provided through Early ACCESS and private providers through outpatient care was vital to Haven's success. Reflecting on services, Heidi suggested that one area to consider improving would be working with the team to explore using and understanding devices that would support communication. The speech & language services and coordination of communication strategies suggested by Haven's therapists were more of a challenge. The coordination and support for feeding therapy and nutrition resources were somewhat limited in the range of services Early ACCESS was able to provide for the family. However, the team always provided resources for outpatient feeding therapy so they always had the support they needed.
- VII. DHS Agency Update:** Julie Allison, Iowa Department of Human Services ACFS/Child Care Bureau Chief, presented information on Iowa's support and resources provided during the COVID-19 national pandemic. She shared the current strategies and allocation of federal funding to support families, child care providers, and child care resource and referral agencies across Iowa. Slides shared during the presentation, [Federal Stimulus Update 2020-2021](#), provided the Council with information referencing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, 2020, Coronavirus Relief and Response Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Members shared insights and asked follow-up questions about the use of these funds and ongoing strategies to support the short-term and long-term impact. The DHS staff are currently working with the child care providers and CCRR to plan for the sustainability of efforts when these funds are no longer available.

- VIII. PR/Marketing Update:** New Early ACCESS logo is here (see top of agenda); shared a flyer from Kari Ebert (PD provider) geared toward pediatricians that Iowa could personalize to include specific information with Iowa contacts. Cari gave Iowa permission to edit her flyer to make it applicable for use by Early ACCESS. Input from members: would like to coordinate our efforts with 1st Five and Early Childhood Iowa. Concern that the flyer has too many words - needs to be bullet points and physicians already know that development is important, so need to share more about Early ACCESS and how to get families connected to Early ACCESS. Make sure pictures represent children with disabilities.
- IX. Iowa Family Support Network new design:**The Early ACCESS State Team, Meghan Miller and Tonya Krueger, provided an update on the recently revised and refreshed [Iowa Family Support Network](#) site for Early ACCESS pages. The additions include specific sections for families and professionals. The information has been updated with links to make a referral to Early ACCESS, help links, content about research in the field, and specific information about children's development, and support for families. The site also includes information relevant to the [Iowa Council for Early ACCESS](#), including members, minutes, bylaws, and reports. We have collaborated with other organizations, such as Early Childhood Iowa and State Departments, to provide a link to Iowa Family Support Network on their sites. Additionally, information was shared about the launch of the ACHIEVE system in November in which there will be a direct link to refer children and families to Early ACCESS. Members can go to the [ACHIEVE site](#) to stay up-to-date on the progress of the ACHIEVE as well as view a video outlining what will be the [Early ACCESS Public Referral Process](#) through ACHIEVE later in the fall of 2021.
- X. Service Coordinator Position Statement:** The Early ACCESS State Team, Melissa Schnurr, provided information about a national effort that Iowa has been actively involved in to promote Service Coordination in Early Intervention. The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the IDEA Infant & Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA) collaborated on a joint position statement to acknowledge the importance of early intervention (EI) service coordination and recognize the expertise and needs of the professionals who provide this service. The [Service Coordination in Early Intervention Joint Position Statement](#) (December 2020) can be found on the DEC site. Iowa provides information to support Service Coordinators and define roles and responsibilities on the Iowa IDEA Information (i3) site: [Service Coordination and Service Coordinators](#). Members provided input on what Iowa may do to support service coordinators as part of the IFSP Team: Comprehensive support and training, strategies to emphasize the value of the team, and communicate

broadly the roles and responsibilities of service coordinators and community of practice.

- XI. Early Childhood Cross Disciplinary Competencies:** The Early ACCESS State Team, Melissa Schnurr, provided information about a national effort that Iowa has been actively involved in to promote [Early Childhood Cross-Disciplinary Competencies](#) addressing common areas of knowledge, skills, and attitudes across all personnel serving young children, ages birth to five with disabilities, and their families. An [overview of the competencies](#) are outlined across four core areas. During the 2020-2021 year, state staff from Early ACCESS and Early Childhood Special Education have provided five webinars with Iowa's faculty across disciplines preparing students for practice to support the integration of the competencies as part of pre-service preparation.
- XII. Child Health Specialty Clinics: Learn the Signs Act Early CDC Grant Activities:** Rachell Swanson-Holm presented on the grant activities related to Learn the Signs Act Early for Iowa. Iowa participated in a pilot study in 2019-2020 and implemented the grant in September 2020. A stakeholder team was convened to do a rapid needs assessment. Rachell presented on the barriers and challenges, as well as successes and achievements. The anticipated outcomes of the project are intended to support the referral to early intervention and the provision of services to families and young children: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>. In addition, any of the handouts that were mentioned today, as well as the presentation can be found in the [meetings material folder](#).
- XIII. Adjournment:** Ryan Hubbert motioned to adjourn. Michael Bergan seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.