## IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS

November 18, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Grimes State Office Building, ICN

400 E. 14th Street

Des Moines, IA 50319

[Agenda](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xvZq5K7a6D1Rs1n1o0ETiLBuEVFRT-uI/edit)

**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order**: Annette Hyde called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:30 a.m., November 18, 2022 with a quorum.

**Council Members Present**: Annette Hyde, John Fuller, Aaron Cronk, Jess Burger, Kimberly Villotti, Eric Locke, Julie Alison, Marguerite (Peg) Macek, Sue Wittmack, Rozy Warder, Stephen Mandler, Tonya Weber

**Council Members Absent**: Karen Thompson, Michael Bergan, Emma Bouza, McKaylee Heuton, Marcus Johnson-Miller, Julie Jones, Megan Lancaster, Lee Pool, Jonathan Wunderlich

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

**Approval of Minutes**: A motion was made by Eric Locke to approve minutes and a second by Kimberly Villotti for the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) meeting held September 23, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

**Family Story:** The ICEA member, Aaron Cronk, shared his family story. When his first born daughter, Sophia, was born the hospital shared that she failed the Newborn Hearing Screening. They recall not really knowing what that meant and went on to get another screening. As a result of the second hearing screening, Sophia was diagnosed with a hearing loss. The family started their journey with Early ACCESS at this time. Their second son, David, was born and passed the Newborn Hearing Screening and diagnosed with mild-moderate bilateral hearing loss following the second screening. Matthew was referred for a hearing screening and found a moderate-severe bilateral hearing loss. Daniel was referred to Early ACCESS after not passing the Newborn Hearing Screening and diagnosed with a mild-moderate bilateral hearing loss. Through genetic testing conducted with the four children after Matthew was born. The four children were diagnosed with Usher's Syndrome.

**Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) 2.0: Continued Learning for Committee:** ICEA Council member, Kimberly Villotti, presented information of the Council’s ongoing contributions to the DMS 2.0 process to support, improve and guide the implementation of Early ACCESS services. As part of the DMS preparation and planning process, a proposal for forming ICEA committees to align with the DMS components. Differentiated accountability will focus on the integration of results data, review documents related to general supervision, and sustaining compliance and improvement. The ICEA members discussed their reflections on how they may be involved and contribute to DMS. The OSEP DMS 2.0 visit for Iowa will begin with a Discovery Phase in March through August 2024; Engagement Phase in August 2024 in which OSEP will be on-sight/virtual; and Close Out in December 2024.

**APR Data Review:** Kate Small, from the Early ACCESS State Team, presented the Annual Performance Report (APR) FFY 2022 for Indicators Natural Environments (C2); Family Involvement (C4); and Transition (C8).

Discussion about if staffing shortages impact services provided. At this time it doesn’t seem to be limiting children served but could affect timeliness of services. There is a shortage of SLPs in the state but there is flexibility for filling this role in Part C. Consider strength in AEA providing services vs. contracting services in future conversations.

Discussion about “Know Your Rights”. Consider how information is presented to families to be sure they are aware of their rights during the evaluation process and the questions are more specific in the survey. Often families don’t want to ask questions and only think about their rights when there is an issue or concern. Relationships are important to ensure families are informed and feel supported. This is also an issue with school age children as well. An agenda can really help families be included and recognize their voice during a meeting. Data from results of the revised survey can help inform if a video for parents would be helpful for them to understand their rights in Early ACCESS.

Transition data demonstrates that the transition process from Part C to Part B is a strength for Early ACCESS services.

**Walking around knowledge:**

During the working lunch, the question “based on this morning’s learning, what do you think is important for committee members to have as “walking around knowledge”? Members answered:

* What is my role on the Council?
* Who does the Council serve?
* What is the purpose of the Council?
* What is the definition/role of the Council?
* Provide the Council with some talking points.
* Why EA is beneficial and how services are delivered.

The ICEA members feel there has been open communication and sharing regarding the APR data by reviewing and discussing current data, plans for improvements, and target setting.

**Signatory Agency Updates:**

* **Health and Human Services:** RFP in review process for 1st Five and Title V Child Health Agencies; service areas have been realigned so they are consistent across HHS programs (WIC, 1st Five, Title V)
* **Education:** working on preparing the Annual Performance Report (APR), which is due Feb 1; AEPS-3 trainings happening for early childhood consultants at the AEAs across the state this winter; count data from all regions was due the last Friday in October
* **Child Health Specialty Clinics:** no update; year end report will be available at the next meeting

**ACHIEVE Updates:**

Dee Gethmann, Part C coordinator, gave an update on the ACHIEVE IDEA data system. She shared the [public website](https://sites.google.com/view/iowaachieveupdates/home) which included statistics for referrals and IFSP. Some comments for looking at statistics displayed on the page- we may want to share a footnote that notes that not all children referred are found eligible for Early ACCESS. Also, we may want to note that the IFSP is for children birth-three. Dee also shared how the development of ACHIEVE has focused on integrating best practices, including the identifying which outcomes are family outcomes or child outcomes. Rozanne Warder mentioned that the new system seemed parent friendly and Jess Burger noted she appreciated that best practices are embedded and staff have been aware of that. Annette Hyde also mentioned that we have to recognize that there are some struggles in learning a new system.

**Establishing ICEA Committees**

Annette Hyde, ICEA Chair, brought forth the idea of reviewing and adjusting the established ICEA Committees. The executive committee discussed the purposes of the current, standing committees and the need to revise, retire, and establish new committees to have broader recommendations, conversations, and advise and assist in the implementation of Early ACCESS. A proposal was provided to the members in draft with an opportunity to discuss the changes to the ICEA Standing Committees.

**First Reading of Modified By-laws**

Annette Hyde shared the first reading of the modified by-laws. The modifications reflect the removal of the bylaws, public policy, and parent engagement committee as well as adding public awareness and continuous improvement. These new committees would reflect the current focus areas of the council and also

**Adjourn**: Eric Locke motioned to adjourn the ICEA meeting. Kimberly Villotti seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm.