



## Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

December 8, 2023  
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building, B100 (basement)  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

### [Agenda](#)

**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order:** Annette Hyde called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:31 a.m. December 8th, 2023.

**Council Members Present:** Julie Jones, McKaylee Heuton, Stephen Mandler, Dee Waddell, Kimberly Villotti, Annette Hyde, Rozanne Warder, Michael Bergan, Karen Thompson, Eric Locke, Tonya Webber, Marguerite (Peg) Macek, Sarah Haberl, Stephen Mandler

**Council Members Absent:** Sue Wittmack, Aaron Cronk

**Guests Present:** Michael Hagensick (Parent/Service Provider), Jess Burger (Grant Wood AEA Liaison), Micki Beard (DHHS Representative)

**Early ACCESS Staff Present:** Kate Small, Dee Waddell, Meghan Miller, Tonya Krueger

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Michael Bergen to approve the minutes from the September 2023 minutes, and seconded by Rozanne Warder. Motion passed unanimously.

**Family Story:** Sandra and David Willsher heard about Early ACCESS after their son experienced some developmental delays and stopped talking after 19 months. They spoke with their providers and had a telehealth visit with Child Health Speciality Clinics during Covid. CHSC referred him to Early ACCESS. Their son was having issues with eating and regressed quickly. He was eventually diagnosed with autism. The services that were provided helped them to structure meal times, play and communication. They suggested and helped them find buttons and tiny talkers to help with communication. The team also helped him prepare for preschool and attended IEP meetings. They also helped get him set up with OT services. They discussed that they wished they had known more about the services offered so they could have taken advantage of more of the scope of OT services.

### **Executive Order [Red Tape Review Rule Report - Chapter 120](#) and [Chapter 120](#) Rules**

**Revision:** Thomas Mayes joined the meeting to discuss Governor Reynolds Red Tape Review to remove duplicate and unnecessary language as ordered by Executive Order 10. During the first portion of the process, DE staff reviewed all of the rules to remove any unnecessary restrictive language. He provided examples including the rule around Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. He also discussed the rule that is under review for repeal and why it is relevant to the council. He discussed Chapter 120 and why the Department is removing rule 120.433 and 120.434. He discussed that these will be removed because the complaint procedure follows the same as all other chapters. All rules are currently being reviewed by the Code Editor. On January 2nd, an in-person meeting will be held from 11:00-11:30 am in B-50 in the Grimes State Building, where it will be available for public comment. He also discussed the rule that outlines the Early ACCESS council and the powers and responsibilities that are granted by that state.



**Indicator Data:** Kate Small shared indicator data. She shared that one indicator they have ready is C2: Natural Environment data. Early ACCESS reports the amount of infants/toddlers who primarily receive services in a home/natural environment rather than an office setting. For this year's data, 96.62 % received services in the natural environment. Annette Hyde clarified that the reason some services are provided in office settings and natural environments percentages are not 100% is because some parents are more comfortable with a professional environment, whether for safety or personal preference reasons. The other indicator is the C3: Early Childhood Outcomes indicator. While we do not have data available for this indicator yet, she explained how this indicator will be measured.

**Differentiated Monitoring and Supports (DMS) [Determinations Criteria](#):** Kate Small continued discussing Child Outcomes and pointed out that Child Outcomes data represent 50% of a state's scoring when being assigned determination levels from OSEP. She shared the data of how Iowa scored in previous years and compared it to the average. She also discussed Iowa's determination criteria.

**Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC): Family Navigation Pilot and Health Assessment Referrals:** Tonya Krueger discussed the Family Navigation Pilot and Health Assessment Referrals. She discussed how they were able to enter information into and utilize ACHIEVE for these purposes. She discussed the Health Assessment Referrals numbers for this fiscal year. She also shared that half of the referrals for health assessments are coming from CHSC service coordinators, but AEA service coordinators that don't have nursing support from their AEA can request a Health Assessment from CHSC.

**ACHIEVE Data Review:** Kate Small reviewed data that was finalized this week regarding ACHIEVE compliance data. She then brought up some challenges, strengths and solutions within the system. Some of the challenges included: system log not for timely services, consents being inactive, staff knowledge regarding the need for formal transition meeting, and data migration issues from the previous system. Some of the strengths included; documentation did occur, tool for review vs spreadsheets, delay codes for missing C7 (45 days). Some solutions for these were; training for transitions and use of reports and notification to help identify timelines.

**Referral Data Brainstorm Next Steps:** Meghan Miller discussed the referral data she received from the system from April 2022- November 2023. She stated that she utilized the DaSy funnel resource to compare the data. She stated that the state of Iowa had a total of 15,387 referrals to Early ACCESS during the window. 5,403 or 35% of referrals moved on to an IFSP and 59% or 9,030 referrals did not move on either because of ineligibility or lack of interest from parents. The other 6% are referrals that are still open. She also went over the funnel of child find, describing how many children are referred, screened, evaluated, eligible for the program and then enrolled. She also showed data on the referrals by age; number and the percent of referrals ended by referral source.

### **Signatory Agency Updates:**

#### **Department of Education (DOE):**

Kimberly Villotti mentioned that they are interested in watching the next legislative session because of all of the rapid changes in the K-12 space. She mentioned that the Bureau of Early Childhood prepares a large amount of legislative reports and data for the session. She also noted that the Department at large has launched an early literacy program. A professional learning opportunity has been offered for free to all educators in the state to learn more about the program.



**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS):**

Meghan Miller stated she now has a person at DHHS who helps her input some of the referrals. She also stated the DHHS is still reviewing the timelines for referrals that Shelley Horak discussed at the previous meeting. She stated as far as knows, this is an ongoing process.

**Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC):**

Peg Macek stated that Tom Schultz is resigning soon, his replacement starts soon. She mentioned a few internal staffing changes.

**Adjourn:** Annette Hyde adjourned the ICEA meeting at 2:29 pm. The next meeting will be February 9, 2024.