

**Iowa Autism Council Meeting  
Draft Minutes 11-10-15**

Meeting minutes taken by **Beth Buehler-Sapp**

- Present:** Erika Hertel, Matthew O'Brien, Jeffrey Jennings, Angela Logsdon, Steve Muller, Angela Burke-Boston, Jan Turbes, Brandon Reece-Arkland, Sean Casey, Wendy Trotter, and Beth Buehler-Sapp.
- Absent:** James Curry, Rachel Heiss, Mary Jackson, Alyson Beytien, Connie Fanselow, Theresa Croonquist, Steve Johnson, and Tara Underwood-Levin
- Guests:** Peggy Swails and Rachell Swanson-Holm from Child Health Specialty Clinics @ the UIHC RAP Program.
- Zoom:** Frank Kohler, Becky Harker, Jenny Phan

The group went around the room and introduced themselves as is the starting practice at every meeting.

Council Members reviewed the draft minutes from the September 9, 2015 meeting. Steve Muller made a motion to approve the minutes and Erika Hertel seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Discussion was had regarding the Medicaid modernization initiative. There are four new providers for individuals receiving Medicaid through the State of Iowa. These 4 MCO's (Managed Care Organizations) will represent 25,000 providers. There are currently 560,000 Iowans on Medicaid who will need coverage from one of these providers.

Steve said that information describing autism services needed was given to providers.

Sean said that based on information presented at the Iowa ABA Conference recently that none of the MCO's have any language regarding Autism.

Council members asked if we have contact information for the 4 Managed Care Organizations who will be taking over Iowa Medicaid. Wendy Trotter stated she will e-mail Laura Larkin and Connie Fanselow to get more information on the 4 MCO's.

Beth Buehler-Sapp mentioned that the council has a back-up meeting date scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> and that if the MCO representatives are available, we could perhaps use that meeting date to meet with the MCO's. Council Members were in consensus that if the meeting is not needed for other council business, and we can secure attendance from MCO representatives, that we will use this date for an opportunity to meet with the MCOs. Wendy will email the group if this gets scheduled.

Steve Muller stated, "We've fought really hard to get what we have and we don't know what's coming."

Wendy Trotter gave update that the BCBA education grant program sits with the Iowa Department of Public Health. How is it going to be executed? The money will be going straight to the students. There will be an application process and it will not be retroactive. February 18<sup>th</sup> is the next tentative date the Iowa Department of Public Health will have their next meeting on this.

Steve Muller would like to request a proposal timeline for when students will be able to get the funding, etc.

Matt O'Brien asked, "Will there be any stipulation on where people get the training?" Sean Casey responded, there has been discussion on potentially limiting it to "brick and mortar" programs versus online programs. We do know that the dollars have to stay in Iowa so they cannot attend an out-of-state college. Residency requirement – as stated in the law, preference will be given to Iowa residents. Also, there has been discussion

around a requirement that recipients will need to stay in Iowa to practice for a specified amount of time upon completion of studies.

Frank Kohler said, "A two year commitment of studies would be very appropriate for receiving these funds." Sean stated, "These funds cannot be diverted to pay for any other studies outside of BCBA programming".

Matt asked and it was confirmed that no money will go towards recruiting.

Jenny Phan asked, "Is supervision a required element as it is with some studies?" Henceforth, "Could a student use funding to pay for their required supervision?"

There are still many details of the rules that are still being worked out. The Department of Public Health is working on the rules, and consulting professionals from Department of Education and Department of Human Services to assist as content experts. Sean said, "This is a slow burn and not a fast fix." Steve Muller said, "The slow process isn't good for folks trying to get into this. Because the funding is not readily available, they have to put up their own stakes, if they are even able to do so." Steve feels a decision deadline of spring 2016 is a must for students trying to decide whether to enroll.

Brandon asked what the requirements are for becoming a BCBA – what type of degree or schooling is required to be able to apply for a BCBA program? Sean shared that an applicant could have a PhD, a master's degree, or a bachelor's degree in special education or psychology. A person would need one of these types of degrees or would have to submit coursework substantiation to provide verification of competencies attained to allow you to take the certification exam.

Peggy Swails and Rachel Swanson-Holm presented a RAP update. RAP has also been working on figuring out what folks with autism and families need for daily living. The Strategic Planning Committee is meeting December 14, 2015. Peggy Swails mentioned that the HRSA Grant through UIHC/CHSC ends August 31, 2016.

Jenny Phan talked about her recent trip to the Autism Law Summit and learning about the Mental Health Parity Law, Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers, and BCBA services. She also said that when trying to get services paid for by an available source, such as the ASP (Autism Support Program), it's almost impossible to get a denial letter from your insurance company.

Council Members reviewed the draft of the Strategic State Plan as provided by Peggy Swails and Wendy Trotter. Angela motioned for the council to support the draft of the Strategic State Plan and Jan Turbes seconded the motion. A council vote was taken and the motion was passed. Steve suggested changing the title to something more distinctive than State Strategic Plan and to submit this to the Legislature and Governor's office along with the council's recommendations.

There was general discussion regarding Tele-Health by council members and there was a consensus to support the continuation of Tele-Health.

Briarcliff University BCBA Program is currently the only BCBA program in Iowa. Currently the program only offers classes on weekdays which doesn't allow non-traditional students to participate in the program. There is a need for the program to offer night, weekend, and summer classes in order to meet the needs of all potential students.

Matt thinks the University of Iowa is close to offering a BCBA program also, but that having a satellite campus in Des Moines is a necessity.

Iowa Autism Council Members reviewed a letter drafted to Briarcliff University by Jan Turbes regarding the BCBA program that strongly supported continuation of this program despite low starting numbers. Brandon Reece Arkland made a motion to approve this letter and Angela Logsdon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Iowa Autism Council Members received a copy of the 2015 Iowa Autism Council's recommendation for submission to the Legislature and Governor's office. Council members will review these recommendations and send their feedback and edits to James Curry, Chair.

Wendy Trotter will follow up with Shan to determine how the council should approach getting information to and possibly an audience with the Governor's office.

Steve Muller made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Erika Hertel seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 3:00pm.