

Iowa Autism Council Meeting Draft Minutes
April 11, 2012
Meeting notes taken by Sue Baker and Beth Buehler-Sapp

Present: Sue Baker, Josh Cobbs, Danielle Sharpe, Marty Ikeda, Toni Merfeld, Steve Muller, Casey Westhoff, Becky Harker, Jeff Gitchee, Rachel Heiss, Robin Sampson, Susan Smith, Jan Turbes, Barbara Stineman, Karn Johansen, Ruth Allison, Laura Larkin, and Beth Buehler-Sapp.

Absent: Debra Waldron, Charles Wadle, Jim Mumford, and Katherine Byers.

Guests: Mike Couvillion, Drake University

Public: Jule Reynolds, Senator Harkin's Office

Josh called the meeting to order and folks went around the room giving a brief introduction of themselves for all to be identified and there were 1 guest and 1 public person in attendance.

There is an up-coming DE event called the Mega Conference which will be on June 11-13th at the Iowa Events Center.

Marty mentioned a couple of primary goals which the Mega-Conference is focusing on:

1. For all children to come to school ready to learn.
2. Implementation of Evidence Based Practices.

Beth will get the registration link for the conference and send this out to the Iowa Autism Council Membership so they can attend this initiative if they are interested.

One Year Follow-Up Survey federal requirements for the 1 Year out grads was asked about by Casey. Josh asked that the consequences are for non-compliance of this requirement. Marty stated that districts that fail to comply are cited as non-compliant at the public school accreditation site visit and they are required to write a corrective action plan and submit this to the Iowa Department of Education.

Karn Johansen asked the group if there is any data collection process that follows the progression of autistic kids in the medical arena in order to make sure that medical needs are addressed so children can function in the educational realm. Sue Baker thought that there is a new data source that is now becoming available.

Josh stated that the insurance bill is not viable this year. This continues yearly to be a concern which we encourage the legislature to address as based on a national study 34% of the state's population is covered by Medicaid or state based coverages.

Josh mentioned that a state insurance bill was passed yesterday in Alabama which only has risk involved passed onto folks who purchase the coverage.

Young adults covered by insurance are now covered up to the age of 26. Even with this being the case the CAP provision and pre-existing conditions still cause coverage issues for many folks.

Care Coordination vs. Case Management

Need to look at how they are defined, aligned, and continue to provide services to people.

Members discussed the services available and the qualifications employers require and help provide. Steve Muller said that the Homestead puts new hires through a 50 hour training process. The state would need to spend \$1 Million dollars to put state workers at Resource Centers up to newly mandated standards.

The standards have been focused on more closely recently due to issues that have evolved in regards to the nursing home industry. Becky Harker stated "When it works well for patient services it's easier to use less people performing better rather than the staff not providing as well". Becky said "It won't go anywhere this year, but it also won't go away".

Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque has receiving \$ to do some continued ASD research.

Casey Westhoff made a motion to remove the words "grow to" from the vision statement of the Iowa Autism Council. Robin Sampson seconded this motion. Motion passed.

Three more areas to add: Jeff Gitchel motioned and Susan Smith seconded the motion.
Marty will follow-up with IT staff.

DHS Update-Waivers

There is a link on the DHS website that shows all of the waiting lists and updates itself manually.

2012 Recommendations

#4 Applied Behavior Analysis

Starting May 1, 2012 the Iowa Autism Council has 2 new members who are as follows:

Theresa Croonquist, Insurance representative who replaces Barbara Stineman and Linda Wessels, family member of a person with Autism who replaces Katherine Byers. They should be joining us at the next meeting on June 13, 2012.

Susan Smith stated that the SEL spells out what qualifications persons need to have to make decisions.

Josh reiterated that if you create a new waiver then there's a new waiting list, etc.

The State of Wisconsin has a new program that allows most services to be paid for. However, there is a provision stipulated that a person is required to live within 50-100 miles of the state's borders in order to be eligible for coverage.

Casey Westhoff mentioned that at the last meeting we talked about the collapse of seven waivers to one waiver in order for persons to better select services. Council members discussed the Regionalization process and collapse of waivers again to stay aware of where the system is at in this process.

In line with the Mental Health Redesign there is a proposal that would implement a 2 Million dollar cut to Woodbury County's funding as of July 1, 2012. Casey is concerned that there will be a reduction of services based on the redesign process. What are we looking at with regards to folks being put on a waiting list and not able to get services. Other large counties such as Polk, Linn, Scott, could quite likely be in crisis as well.

Casey also mentioned that supported employment programming has reduced significantly in Linn County. Many of the policy issues around redesign have been generally agreed to. In order to meet regionalization requirements these three criteria must be met:

1. An area must have a CMHP or Federally Qualified Mental Health Center
2. There must be 250-750 residents.
3. Three or more counties must be merging to form a region.

Becky Harker will send a link to Beth to send out to the council members. If members have questions they can also call Rick Shannon at the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Casey – Yeah, that the term Mental Retardation has been taken out of written language by a law recently signed.

Casey asked if the council members thought that some new work groups should be formed to focus on following the regionalization process. Josh said yes, particularly in light of the increasing numbers.

Autism word has been removed from the redesign issue.

Due to the Mental Health Redesign cost, it is not feasible to expect an expansion of coverages at this time as this would double the amount of funding needed.

Steve Muller commented that Director, Charles Palmer, DHS, has done a great job.

He's grasped the issues and opened the discussions. This is a huge improvement in comparison to previous administrations. How can this group facilitate that conversation?

Becky Harker posed the question, "If persons aren't ready to work or go to school, then where are they going to go?"

If there is a boom in kids who become adults and have Autism or other MR related disability and qualify for services this will deluge the system. There are also those folks who have a disability such as Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, or Multiple Sclerosis and impacts their intellectual (neurological) capabilities.

Josh says, let's invite Director Palmer to come to an Iowa Autism Council Meeting.
Steve Muller makes a motion to contact Chuck Palmer.

Josh will craft a letter inviting Director Palmer to an upcoming meeting and send out to the entire council.

4 Upcoming Parent Training Opportunities:

1. AC @ University of Iowa face-to-face and on-line versions available
6 per series with 4 seasons of series
2. AEA's – EA money to have providers do parent training.
3. UNI Grant Program (OIR) specific methodology with 20 families with birth-8 children.
4. Woodward Parent Training – August (date TBD) – The Iowa Autism Council could have a booth at this training for free but we would need members to volunteer to staff the booth.
Psychotropic Medication Monitoring Training – June 29, 2012

Work Symposium – Employment 1st

Iowa was just 1 of 3 states that was awarded an employment 1st leadership grant.

New Project – There is a new project which involves collaboration between IDOE, Voc Rehab, DHS, and the DD Council. It involves participants aged 16-30. There are demonstration sites set-up at 6 school districts. Those involved in mentorship will be going on a trip to Washington, D.C.

Nominations for (for at least 1 year) New Chair and Vice-Chair for the Iowa Autism Council

Casey Westhoff nominated Josh Cobbs for Chair and Steve Muller seconded the motion.

Casey Westhoff nominated Steve Muller for Vice-Chair and Jeff Gitchel seconded the motion.

A vote was taken to ask all in favor and there were numerous I's, all opposed none

New Member of the Iowa Autism Council are as follows:

Theresa Croonquist

Linda Wessels

Reappointed Members:

Josh Cobbs

Steve Muller,

Jeff Gitchel

April is Iowa Autism Awareness Month and Josh Cobbs will be presenting weekly radio addresses on station KCAU out of Sioux City.

Several Iowa Community Colleges that have transition programs are Kirkwood Community College and Iowa Lakes Community College.

Steve Muller offers the use of the conference room at The Homestead for any future meetings where our current site here at the DE is unavailable.

Josh Cobbs motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Gitchel seconded the motion.