Josh called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Introductions:
- Members introduced themselves and explained their role on the council.
- New members were introduced: Lin Wessels, mother of a child on the spectrum, Theresa Croomquist, Wellmark Insurance
- Jeff Gitchel submitted his resignation to the committee. He will be moving to New Mexico.
- Kathy Levine, DMACC, has replaced Ruth Allison.
- Dr. Rachel Heiss has married. Her social name is Rachel Huston.

Jeff Gitchel noted his e-mail is wrong. They left off the j. Beth: when you get this finished, please delete this sentence.

Approve Minutes
Correction to the April minutes:
- Page 2 – Josh asked “what are the consequences for non-compliance? one year follow-up survey - schools are cited (not sited.)
- Page 6 – nominations for (for at least one year).

Motion made by Jeff to approve minutes with corrections. Dr Heiss seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Iowa Autism Web Site
The Iowa Autism web site is set up, with minutes, recommendations, and priorities. Sue will share application information on this site for replacement for Jeff’s position with Asperger Adult group.
Doing an Internet search of the Iowa Department of Education site will now show Iowa Autism Council as an option. We have a new procedure regarding posting minutes. When minutes are ready for review, we will send them out for members to approve. Once approved at the next meeting, they will be posted on the web site. This will give us a vehicle for sharing information. If members don’t want their email shared on this site, please contact Sue or Beth and it will be removed. Josh encouraged members to check it out and see if you have other thoughts or suggestions.

Child and Adolescent Health Data
There is a new data site for health information about ASD: www. http://childhealthdata.org/. Using the right column, national data statistics about autism can be found as well as state data. This is a national group that does work for autism, mental health, etc. They have decided they need to get better with data. The data for Iowa is misunderstood but there are other sources for Iowa that are very strong and connected to this site.
Bylaw Changes
One word was changed in the bylaws: Under vision the word “grow” was added. The website reflects the updates. As a member, you will be able to make those changes at the next meeting.

DHS redesign (Laura)
Redesign website:
http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html

On the DHS website under mental health, there are two documents on the redesign that summarized the three bills, when the changes of residency take effect, and also a timeline (when things will happen),

Last year the legislation passed required DHS workers to redesign the system of mental health care from counties to make it more consistent, and create regions providing core services. Currently counties fund part of the Medicaid funds, and the state will take that over, to provide uniform core services across the state. Establishing regional entities is one of the more controversial proposals in the Redesign. As envisioned in SF 525:
• The Department will set the standards and assess for accountability;
• The Region will manage and administer non-Medicaid services and coordinate with the Department on Medicaid services; and
• Services, service access and service coordination will continue to be provided at the local level.
Laura will send information to Beth so she can distribute to council. The non-mandated services that some counties took over may not be taken over by the state but the county can continue to provide, however there is a 3-month gap in cash flow. Steve indicated concern for this gap.

DHS is required to look at many things: are you maximizing Medicaid, what services are provided, is this the best way to provide the service, etc. They will be transitioning to a more consistent distribution of service. Examples were provided by Laura to respond to Steve, Casey, and Josh’s inquiry.

People who were in facility-based work (some were working) and counties are losing that money, they don’t qualify for Voc Rehab, so are we now paying them not to work. Laura commented that the transition committee will be studying the issue and looking at funding issues when legislature convenes. It was mentioned that Iowa does not seem to want ASD focused services by itself, but rather lumped with other disability supports.

Steve requested that a representative from Voc Rehab address the group at our next meeting. The biggest issue identified was the transition through the next 6 months. Jeff expressed concern for adults who need access to services and how they will find them, especially during the transition period. Kathy commented that VocReb has what is known as a Purse, which is a kit of resources.

Susan suggested looking at Minnesota’s web site: (www.ausm.org)

Department of Education Survey Update (Marty Ikeda)
The issue in Iowa, with Special Education, is that we are a non-categorical state, and we can’t easily identify students on the spectrum. This year, we searched IEPs with some key words and identified 3102 students possibly on the spectrum. We are trying to understand the rigor of the services. Methodology is not always identified because it is not required; survey identified 39% had unestablished practices and 2% have emerging practices with 6% established. This survey only looks at instructional services. Josh
wants to know if we can pull out special transportation and separate from education services. Marty will check. Marty also commented that many things could be happening that are not documented, such as direct instruction, so this makes collecting data challenging. Para educators play a big part in this. It looks like IEP teams are making decisions that are best for kids. There will be summaries that are linked to achievement data.

Dr. Ikeda also shared some data from the Mega Conference about pre-reading and reading exposure and U of Iowa had 0 of 5 important components, UNI curriculum trained 1 or 5, and Buena Vista had 4 of 5 components.

The first two reports are being vetted by in-state and out-of-state experts for feedback. It will be important to identify to the field what methodologies as stated above are within these three categories. This data can be used to inform policy. These reports from Marty should not be forwarded. Until it has the State Board of Education title page, it not an official report for publication. Other issues will be queried for the next report (caseloads). When official, these will be attachments on the website.

Sue commented that the research is not definitive. She will send a link on research on speech services (hours of speech did not affect growth in skills on page 117 of Therapies for Children with Autism, Effective Autism Program, Comparative Effectiveness Review Number 26 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Meeting Dates for Next Year
Dates for next year’s meetings:
- September 12, 2012 (phone working meetings between these two face-to-face meetings)
- Nov 7, 2012
- March 13, 2013
- June 12, 2013.

Employment Update by Casey: See handout (Alignment of Iowa’s Employment Initiatives with Employment First—2012 Big picture for employment for individual s with disabilities in Iowa) Mission: Employment in the general workforce is the first and preferred outcome in the provision of publicly funded services for all working age Iowans with disabilities, regardless of their level of disability. How do we determine what work really is, is working in a sheltered workshop considered work? Concern by some groups that sub-minimum pay will be eliminated; he doesn’t see short-term elimination but may see some changes. Some states have closed sheltered workshops.

St. Ambrose College Survey Discussion
St. Ambrose approached Josh a couple of months ago. They want to look at the experience of the transition from school to work for students with autism. Research to be done by Emily Mondt, and they want our help or guidance. They also want the perspective of person with autism and the system. This is a Master’s level student; sounds like a thesis. It is overseen by a university professor.
Jeff made a motion that Danielle follow up on this and bring back more information. Steve seconded the motion. Motion approved. Later, this request was amended to be Sue Baker and Linn Wessels as contact persons.

**Action Steps with goals and objectives for December report:**

**Important steps suggested to guide our report were brainstormed:**

1. **Legislation: Autism insurance legislation** expanded to any employer sponsored plan supported by law. **Current status:** Got it through state employees insurance. Would like data on who is using that. Current law as it exists right now is through age 21.

2. **ASD Adult Toolkit**
   Consider distributing at job fairs. Does 211 have info on autism?

3. **Adult Coordinator or Navigator position/referral**
   With X amount of people in Iowa and we would like to have X amount of positions in this region who can help with coordinating college preparation information, resource facilitator model could be mimicked. Perhaps Regional Facilitators could be an access point across regions. Jeff proposes the Council explore the possibility of creating or aiding the creation of a central facilitator for adult/child services for children and adults with autism. Could the past Adult Advisory Committee members through DHS be reinstated?

4. **Reach out to U of I on research; promote university (position) research on efficacy**
   Ask universities to help us to do a better job of reviewing the research. For example, show legislators what would help us, what are the cost/benefit for employing students with autism, is there research suggesting investing in ASD rather than the larger Developmental Disabilities groups? (If Jeff finds any evidence of these, he will send to Steve/Susan/Casey.)

5. **Influence curriculum for police, EMT, community service providers required by MH redesign.**

6. **Promoting autism services/education for Iowans (rural and urban) (Appropriate specialized) With a focus on Employment?** Assessment, and training to increase employment opportunities: Kathy – could report back on ideas for employment opportunities for people with autism. Engage some businesses with us in getting them employed. Get data from those already doing that.

7. **Increase employment for adults with autism.**
   What is our baseline: What percent of people working in businesses have individuals with disabilities? Is it 4.75% for the executive branch? Increase via training or identifying successful employers w/emphasis on advertising or gathering targeted feedback from employers.

8. **Request the state to consider a hiring practice that engages people with intellectual disabilities into paid employment.**
9. Help publicize data on education and needs of ASD collected at the DE through distribution to schools in Iowa, publications, national conferences.

10. Children’s MH redesign to address issues of children in community-based services in state facilities. Examine how many of Iowa’s kids with autism are placed out of state? Kids on the spectrum are living in state run institutions and private institutions, wondering what we can do to push the redesign to push this issue. We could have a committee look at the issue of kids not moving out of facilities and into residential based supported living (group home) or out of home based facilities.

11. Increase in state resources/facilities to address gaps in supporting challenging individuals w/ASD.

Action to be taken: The executive group will formalize these brainstormed options and have an executive meeting to decide how to share, garner votes to prioritize, and solicit work group members.

Motion to Adjourn
Susan made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed.