

Minutes of Iowa Autism Council

March 13, 2013

Date 3/13/13

Time started: 10:00

Present: Josh Cobbs, Andrew Waldschmitt, Kathy Levine, Dr. Rachel Heiss, Laura Larkin, Beth Buehler-Sapp, Steven Muller, Susan Smith, Lin Wessels, Barb Guy, and Sean Casey.

Absent: Jan Turbes, Robin Sampson, Charles, Wadle, Jim Mumford, Debra Waldron, and Becky Harker.

On the phone: Casey Westhoff

Steve Muller made a motion to call the meeting to order and Wessels seconded the motion.

Legislative Updates (moved to first order of business):

Steve Mueller (point of order) – Discussion of **Unified Autism Platform 2013** handout

- CSAAC Meeting – Autism Directions – Easter Seals, ARC, Autism Society, Autism Speaks;
 - o 5 Position Statements by this Group (CONFIDENTIAL)
 - ABLE Act – Tax free money that is funneled to the kid (up to \$100,000) modeled after 529 plans for college savings.
 - Sub-Minimum Wage Certificate
 - Block Granting – for controlling costs in Medicaid
 - Long Term Career options for training opportunities for Autism Providers – Some sort of credential
 - Improved Medicaid Access for Children and Adults – Minimum standards

Josh Cobbs – Representative Heaton Bill

- Bill for 3-8 year olds
- Pot of money by the state for treatment for children with ASD
- This bill is developed for children who cannot access Medicaid (Steve's comment)
 - o CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSION
- Edits from the Council members will be sent to Beth who will distribute to the group
 - o Email Josh or Steve AND **Beth**

Josh Cobbs – Director Palmer - Open model to provide services/RFP for services

- Not at this time (Legislatures)
- Different proposals (The Homestead, Mercy Dubuque)
- Here's the money do you want to apply – who gets the cash

Josh Cobbs – Budget cuts (Woodbury cash strapped/budget cuts)

- Two private organizations may (or will) be closing w/o funding
- Sequestration and Levy rates have to be a certain amount
 - o Caps on revenue generating taxes which is resulting in Counties hoarding of the funds to retain rainy day funds
 - o Optional services being sought when ASD funds are unavailable.

Laura Larkin – Regionalization of MH Services

- April 1st, 2013 Counties will identify their regions (n=3 for this currently looking)
- Identifying those going it alone and those that are partnering
- This is early discussion and likely to be numerous changes before it rolls out
- “Legal Settlement” - Funding based on where the person resided where they were last settled

Who are the newer people added to the council and who are leaving?

After Lunch

Overall Business

Andrew – Can we add a glossary to the alphabet soup (acronyms).

Errors on the prior minutes

- Misstatements were identified by several members; submit errors to Beth and Sean Casey for corrections.
- How can we get resources available to the IAC put up on the website
 - o Some issues with accessibility (e.g., blind, visual impaired).

Education Work Group updates

- Where are we the survey pieces with Drake?
 - o Can we finish the last pieces of surveys (LEAs and AEAs)
 - o We need to finish the report
 - o Do we research EVPs? Or use the existing data bases.
 - o What are the next steps?
 - Waiting to hear from the DE representatives on where we will go with this
 - Barb Guy and Sean Casey will address

Susan Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rachel Heiss seconded the motion.