

Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

Meeting Minutes September 30, 2015

I. Call to order

Casey Vermillion called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS to order at 10:05 AM on September 30, 2015 at the Grimes State Building, Des Moines, IA.

II. Attendance

Council Members Present: Kasey Vermillion, Tom Scholz, Marti Andera, Angela Hance, Kim Thomas, Kimberly Villotti, Jeffrey Anderson, Gladys Alvarez, Laurie Jeans, Amanda Kleese, Mary Butler, Shari Huecksteadt, Paula Connelly

Staff Present: Meghan Wolfe, Diane McDonald-Goetzmann, Cindy Weigel, Melissa Schnurr, Andrea Dencklau

Absent: Marcus Miller-Johnson, Chad Dahm, Kevin Koester

Minutes from last Meeting:

Angie Hance motioned to approve January Meeting Minutes. Jeff Anderson seconded. Approved.

Approval of minutes from the May 2015 meeting will be tabled until the following meeting as edits are needed.

III. Family Story:

Kasey Vermillion presented her Early ACCESS family story - both of her children received Early ACCESS services.

Suggestions

“When I look back, I don’t know how we got through that first year.” Kasey suggested that it would be helpful if there was more understanding about how overwhelming and emotional the families’ situations may be. Respect families’ priorities. Transition to Part B was very difficult. Believes DAYC lacks in social emotional area. EA staff were supportive, but did not recognize some of the signs of autism that one son was displaying.

Discussion about Autism Navigator and impact on Early ACCESS practice.

The Council shared some ideas about how to share the families’ stories with new and established Early ACCESS staff. How do we ensure parent’s insight (through stories) influences practice?

VI. Explanation of Council Committees and Tasks

Executive Committee: Needed positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Parent, one additional member (at-large). Typically, the Chair and Vice Chair have been parents- but that is not required in by-laws.

V. Update on Eligibility Task Teams

Early ACCESS eligibility criteria task teams have formed in order to provide clarity on which children are eligible for services. Every Council member has the opportunity to keep the work moving forward over the summer months by participating in one or both task teams. Please let Kate or Cindy know by June 1 if you are interested in either of these teams:

- (1) Definitions Task Team for Physical & Mental Conditions: This team will consist of medical experts and others who are interested in creating a written document (or online version) of physical and mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay (see Iowa Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS 120.21 on handout “Eligibility Criteria Discussion Definitions...”).
- (2) Eligibility Task Team: This team will continue to Council’s discussion on what Iowa Administrative Rules for Early ACCESS say the program must do, the practice that is actually occurring, the need to align practice with Rules, and address a change in the Rules if Iowa wants to serve children who are at risk of experiencing a developmental; delay because of biological and environmental factors (see federal regulation 303.5 on “Eligibility Criteria Discussion Definitions...”).

Eligibility Task Team:

Kim Thomas
Paula Connolly
Marcus Johnson-Miller
Kasey Vermillion
Angie Hance
Shari Huecksteadt
Laurie Jeans
Jeff Anderson

Definitions Task Team for Physical & Mental Conditions:

Kim Thomas
Paula Connolly
Gladys Alvarez
~~Mary Larew~~-Thomas Scholz

VI. Committee Updates:

Public Policy Committee: None

Membership Committee: Slate for Executive Committee. State Team member will send a letter to those who have missed more than 3 Council meetings. 3-5 members’ terms are ending, but some are eligible for another term.

Kasey Vermillion, Chair

Kim Thomas, Co-Chair

Stacy Kramer, Parent Representative

Marti Andera, At Large Representative

Angie Hance motioned that nominations cease, Shari Huecksteadt seconded.

Gladys Alvarez moved to nominate the slate. Angie Hance seconded. Slate was approved unanimously.

VII. Distance Mentoring Model (DMM) Update

Melissa described the progress made through 3 cohorts. ~ 90 providers completed, shift is happening. Increase of: Routines in intervention, caregiver coaching strategies, SSOOPRRR framework, evidence-based practices.

Cohort 4 has begun- working in quads. Community of Practice to support local coaches

Goal: Help parents embed interventions within their day.

VIII. OSEP Conference

Kasey Vermillion attended Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Conference

Reorganization of OSEP: Used to have separate contact for Part B and Part C. Now developed teams of contacts that bring together different expertise for more collaborative discussions

Moving from compliance to better results

Breakout sessions: Social Emotional Outcomes for birth-3, toolbox of social assessments; Parent empowerment. Emphasis on kids and families and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

The perception from outside Iowa is that Iowa is better at collaborating across systems.

The Early Intervention Family Alliance (EIFA) is reorganizing and working with DaSy (Early Childhood Data Systems) to offer parent sessions at their yearly conference. (Edited 1/28/16)

IX. SSIP Update

Cindy Weigel gave update. Year 2 (FFY 2014) is due 2015 and written plan due in April 2016. We have a template to follow. We will discuss Indicators and data next meeting.

Phase II- Improvement Plan: Evidence-based Practices. Cindy will talk more about this at next meeting in November.

Parent Survey measures competence and confidence of caregivers, creates more useful data to discuss at Nov. meeting.

Q: Are any AEA's doing surveys beyond what the state is doing?

A: Not that we know of.

X. Additional Comments

Need more Parent representatives on the Council. Paula Connelly had two parents inquire about EA Council. Paula will follow up with parents and Cindy.

We are woman heavy, please look for men. It could be an option for parents to have one parent apply and the other parent can substitute in place.

XI. Adjournment:

Marti Andera motioned to end the meeting at 3pm and Gladys Alvarez seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by Andrea Dencklau.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Schnurr on October 13, 2015.