Minutes: Iowa Council for Early ACCESS

Date: November 19, 2010
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Place: Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, Iowa

Welcome
Julie Hahn welcomed Council members and guests.

It was announced that Emilee Halls, a newly appointed member, has resigned due to a job change.

Kelly Hancock made a motion to approve Heather Moorman’s nomination as the parent representative on the Executive Committee, second by Michael Acarregui. The motion passed unanimously.

Parent Story
Crystal McCleary

Due to complications during pregnancy Noah was born premature. Crystal had worked at childcare centers, so she knew to sign up for Early ACCESS before Noah came home from the hospital. Early ACCESS helped to show her how to give her son bottles, so that he could be removed from the feeding tube. Initially he received physical therapy then speech therapy was added later.

The Early ACCESS providers were willing to have meetings at the house in order to accommodate the health needs of both Noah and Crystal. Having services in the home was important to Crystal because she discovered that she had a brain tumor and no longer drives. When Noah got ready to turn three the Early ACCESS team helped make a smooth transition to the Des Moines Public Schools for Early Childhood Special Education and Drake Head Start program.

Approve Minutes
Motion by Robert Anderson to approve the minutes from September 24, 2010 as submitted, second by Michael Bergan; motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update
Sheila Hansen, Child and Family Policy Center

- Discussed Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill Feb. 9, 2011. She encouraged Council members to submit family stories.
- The Governor-Elect’s views on Iowa’s Four-Year-Old Preschool program are unclear but the Senate has pledged to keep the program.
- A 15% cut to state budget was promised by Governor-Elect Branstad, some are concerned that programs already took a 10% cut last year.
- The Department of Human Services is looking at a $25 million shortfall to meet their current caseload. Many options will have to be reviewed on how to meet this shortfall.

Continued on next page
C-2 Natural Environments
OSEP said that states need to set a target for two more years. In 2009 - 2010 our target was 96.50%, and we were at 99.05% services for Natural Environment. Iowa is currently exceeding expectations. OSEP wants to make sure that we are making individualized decisions. It was proposed to maintain 96.6% as the target for services in Natural Environment.

Michael Bergen made a motion to recommend 96.6% as the C-2 target for the two year extension, second by Kelly Hancock; motion passed unanimously.

C4 - Family Outcomes
OSEP wants to know the percentage of families who know their rights, whether parents can communicate their child’s needs, and if parents can better meet their children’s needs. Debra Waldron volunteered to serve on committee being put together by state staff to study revising the Family Survey. Target has been increased 1% each year for the last four years. It was recommended to retain the same target because we do not currently have data to let us know if we need to increase our target.

Kelly Hancock made a motion to recommend 93% as the target for all three measures (A, B, and C) for the two year extension, second by Robert Anderson; motion passed unanimously.

C-5 Child Find Birth-1 and C-6 Child Find Birth – 3
The Council met in small groups to review the Child Find data. Council member’s feedback will be incorporated into the Annual Progress Report. It was noted that the growth in the number of children from birth to age one and birth to age three served by Early ACCESS has exceeded state targets but members are concerned about funding not matching the growth.

A motion was made by Kelly Hancock, second by Michael Bergen, to recommend maintaining the C-5 Birth – 1 target at 1.3% and the C-6 Birth – 3 target at 2.5% for the two year extension. The motion passed unanimously.

The Lead Agency noted that the Office of Special Education staff visited Iowa the week of October 25th. They complemented Early ACCESS for the progress they saw from their last state visit. There will be an official report that will detail any deficiencies and the corrective steps needed.

The Governor’s Report will be submitted to the Executive Committee at their December meeting, the report will then be finalized.
Reports, continued

- The Membership Committee announced that there are currently three vacant positions; two At-Large positions, and one Parent position. Council members are going to speak to a few prospective members. Marion will contact the Governor’s Office. State staff will get the list of terms for the committee; the committee will contact members who have expiring terms to see if they will continue to serve on the Council.
- The Parent Committee is working on several different speakers who could possibly speak at the “Parent Meeting” for the Council, and is also preparing for Early Childhood Iowa’s Day On The Hill.
- Julie Hahn shared that the Executive Committee discussed future activities regarding data informed decision making; reviewed the web IFSP; and consent authority regarding children in foster care.

Sharing

- Paula Connolly said she is available to train families about rights and responsibilities. There is a new Executive Director at ASK Resource Ctr.
- Jane Borst said the ASQ and ASQ-SE developmental screening training has been very successful. Public Health is working on the Affordable Care Act Home Visiting grant application to be completed in January.
- Julie Hahn organized a panel for teens who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Kelly Hancock will be speaking at Briar Cliff University nursing students about Early ACCESS.
- Gina Greene - EA Regional Liaisons are busy training staff on the newly revised Procedures Manual and. Twenty youths with disabilities created an initiative called “I Am Norm”. [http://www.iamnorm.org/home.aspx](http://www.iamnorm.org/home.aspx)
- Robert Anderson shared that the Scott County System of Care Initiative is bringing together providers and individual to identify mental health needs. He hopes that Early ACCESS representatives will be able to attend.
- Rae Miller shared that CHSC is having speakers from the Vermont Public Health Partnership come to Iowa for a meeting on Dec. 7th to talk about late premature births.
- Aryn Kruse shared that a group of Iowa State Graduate Students went to the Division of Early Childhood Conference.
- Carrie Sodders attended a Birth to Three Institute that had a panel of “high need” or “multi-risk factor” families. She noted that the persistence of the home visitor is always appreciated by the families.
- Michael Bergan shared updates for Early Childhood Iowa, six areas were contacted to be pilots for a Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports program. He participated in National Parents As Teachers conference, a new curriculum is aligned with the new federal home visitation program.
- Cindy Weigel attended a DEC session about online training for professionals and families to work together to become an IFSP team.
Adjourn

Next meeting is January 21, 2011 at the Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, Iowa.

Note: If there is inclement weather, the meeting will be held via conference call or computer link - information will be sent out on how to participate.

The next Executive Committee Meeting was changed to Dec. 10th.

Robert Anderson made a motion to adjourn, second by Mary Stevens. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.