

***Iowa Council for Early ACCESS
Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2013***

I. Call to order

Julie Hahn called to order the regular meeting of the **Iowa Council for Early ACCESS** at **10:00 AM** on March 8, 2013 in **Des Moines, IA** at the **Grimes State Office Bldg, 400 E 14th St., Room B100**.

II. Attendance

Council Members Present: Marty Andera, Robert Anderson, Michael Bergan, Brenda Best, Mary Butler, Paula Connolly, Chad Dahm, Gary Guetzko, Julie Hahn, Angela Hance, Shari Huecksteadt (conference call), Kevin Koester, Aryn Kruse, Heather Moorman, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Janet Stauss, Kim Thomas, Kasey Vermillion, Debra Waldron (late)

Staff Present: Rae Miller, Chris Rubino, Melissa Schnurr, Cindy Weigel, Kate Small, Marcus Johnson (Added: guest representing Gretchen Hageman).

Absent: Gladys Alvarez, Jodi Angus, Maria Cashman, Meghan Wolfe

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Minutes from the January 18, 2013 meeting were reviewed and corrected as follows: 1) Delete absent members Raymond Brownsworth and Nichol Kleespies 2) Minor punctuation edits. **Motion** made by Gary Guetzko and seconded by Robert Anderson to approve the minutes. **Approved** unanimously.

IV. Part C Grant Application

LauraBelle shared information on the Grant Application posted on the website. It is open for public access on the website for any Early ACCESS council member. This will be infrastructure
Sequestration did not pass and Part C will be affected by this.

V. Family Story

Bob and Susan Selby presented the story of their sons Tommy and Joseph. "Holding Tiny Hands"- foundation they started that supports families in the NICU.

VI. Update on ARRA projects: PI-CHI and RN Health Assessments

Vicki Hunting presented on PI-CHI (Partnership to Improve Child Health in Iowa). Build connections for and improve healthcare for late preterm infants and adolescents. Recently, they posted the Late Preterm Infant Report (focus on infants 34-36 weeks gestation). Some questions they try to focus on are: What are risks associated with late preterm infants and how can we minimize these risks? They also focus on the system of care. She shared several challenges and next steps of some of the programs they are currently working on, including; marketing, referrals, referrals, and best practices.

Rae Miller presented on the RN Health Assessment project through Iowa Child Health and Specialty Clinics. The goals of the project are to: conduct health reviews in pilot

regions, Hire RNs to complete health reviews, improve outcome attainment, and develop practice standards for statewide spread of the health review process. Outcomes of this project include (but are not limited to): best practice process and guidance developed and disseminated to state Early ACCESS system. Recommendations are to finalize health assessment evaluation process, operationalize the use of CAHMI (health screening tool) statewide, keep regional data on CSHCN, and provide assistance to build capacity of local health providers.

VII. EA Leadership Group update

Melissa Schnurr presented in place of Shari Huecksteadt. Posted a Request for Proposal in December for professional development; we received a proposal from Julianne Woods from Florida State University. The “Distance Mentoring Model” framework will be implemented starting this year and continue over a 5-year timeline. The focus of this model is on coaching; service providers will coach the parents to help their children develop.

VIII. Legislative Update

Kevin Koester shared a legislative update with the council. Funnel week ends today. The only thing that would affect Early ACCESS would be policy in relation to ECI (Early Childhood Iowa) boards. Public provider is going to be allowed on the board.

IX. Environmental Toxins Update

Debra Waldron gave a presentation: Environmental Toxins and the Neurodevelopment of Infants and Toddlers: Impacts on Iowa’s Children. Based on a study supported by ARRA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) Children are more susceptible to toxins and brains are rapidly developing. Identified toxins that are common in and around living environments in Iowa. The cumulative exposure to toxins can have a negative effect on neuro-development, leading to behavior. Need to look at how we can lessen the effects of these exposures in the womb and in environments. Interventions include: education and identification of exposures, identification of exposed children, continuous screening and monitoring of exposed children, and referrals to more intensive interventions when delays are identified.

X. Iowa Early Learning Standards Update

Melissa Schnurr gave an update on the Iowa Early Learning Standards. The revised version will be available on the Department of Education website once the revisions are approved.

The revision allowed for a new content area in Social Studies. There is a new focus on Dual Language Learners and cultural diversity. In alignment to the Iowa Core, trying to build a bridge for a continuous education process. The first 2000 days of life is the fastest development period in our lifespan. Learning Standards serve as an “anchor” for what we should be seeing as standard developmental benchmarks, as well as

explicit examples. These standards can be adapted by a variety of users: families, providers, teachers, policy members, etc.

XI. Committee Reports

Parent

Heather: Day on the Hill does not have a meeting in the morning. How can we encourage people to be proactive to their legislators?

Public Policy

LauraBelle: Talked about preterm delivery babies and the implications of scheduling C-sections earlier and the correlation of C-sections with high school dropout (Added). Starting to ask different insurance companies what their policy is for reimbursement. How can we share resources and define “services” with the different agencies.

Governor’s Report No Report

Membership/Nominations

Vacancies we are looking for are private provider and two parents for right now. We need to have a slate of officers for the fall. Need: a vice chair, Email anyone of the membership committee if they have suggestions (Added)

By-Laws No Report

XII. Sharing of Activities and Upcoming Events

Early Childhood Iowa will be holding webinars that are coming up.

HeadStart looking into a mental health initiative and will make steps forward in this area- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) will be integrated into this.

Aryn updated that Loras College is looking into early intervention internships and hopefully this will catch on at other institutes of higher education (IHEs).

Melissa is trying to keep other IHEs in the loop so that they include Early ACCESS/intervention in their classes. Keep consistent contact with these processors and departments.

In June there is a psychology trauma conference. At the end of the first day will be a reception for the Iowa Infant and Child Mental Health kickoff.

XIII. Adjournment

Julie Hahn adjourned the meeting at **2:22 pm**.

A motion was made by Michael Bergan and seconded by Robert Anderson. It was approved unanimously.

Minutes submitted by: Kate Small