



## IOWA COUNCIL FOR EARLY ACCESS

February 9, 2024

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Iowa Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building, B100 (basement)  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
[Agenda](#)

**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Call to Order:** Annette Hyde called the Iowa Council for Early ACCESS (ICEA) to order at 9:31 a.m., February 9th, 2024

**Council Members Present:** Michael Bergan, Sue Wittmack, Annette Hyde, Sarah Haberl, Eric Locke, Peg Macek, Rozanne Warder, Aaron Cronk, Tonya Weber, McKaylee Heuton

**Council Members Absent:** Julie Jones, Kimberly Villotti, Karen Thompson

**Guests:** Jess Burger, Micki Beard

**Early ACCESS Staff Present:** Kate Small, Tonya Krueger, Dee Waddell, Meghan Miller

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Sarah Haberl to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Eric Locke. Annette Hyde approved the minutes.

**How a Bill Becomes a Law:** Representative Michael Bergan spoke about how a bill becomes a law. He stated an idea is proposed and drafted as a bill. It is then filed in the house and assigned to a committee. A committee chair then has the authority to assign it to a subcommittee. Some bills don't get assigned, whether by volume or other factors. When it is assigned, the subcommittee is made up of 2-3 members with a majority. The chair of the subcommittee is essentially the bill manager, who works to get it ready for public input and eventual signature. If the bill is moved forward. After it makes it out of the subcommittee it goes back to the committee for discussion. This is the process where bills can be amended or abandoned. Notice is then put up that it will be added to the debate calendar. Then the bill can be brought up for debate on the floor. Once a bill is adopted by the House it moves to the second chamber. The process of subcommittees and amendments is similar. If it's amended, it goes back to the house. Then the House can either accept or reject the amendment.

He stated one of the most important things he stresses to individuals is that bills and amendments are a lengthy process time-wise. He then discussed advocacy. He said he often receives emails from constituents who email him and urge him to vote no. He said the process can be tricky because the bill is often amended. He stated if he votes no initially, then he is left out of the amendment process. He would then have no opportunity to add to the discussion. He discussed the most recent emails he received regarding the AEA bill were very professional emails but often they were very lengthy. He also stated that brevity and succinctness sometimes helps in this process when contacting a legislator. He also discussed the role of lobbyists during this process and how they help to aid the bill-passing process and help legislators understand the bill. T

**Family Story:** Parent representative Sarah Haberl shared her family story. She is from Carroll, IA. They are a family of four. Her son was born at 36 weeks after Sarah experienced a fall. Sarah noticed at 20 months he started to notice lack of eye contact, lack of speech/parroting,



headdrops/self-harm, scratching, and not socializing. They struggled to find a daycare that would keep him because of these symptoms but were assured by their primary care doctor that everything was fine. Sarah researched out to the AEA (Heartland) and several representatives came for observations. While Sarah tried to get a diagnosis from their primary doctor, the AEA provided services all through Covid. Eventually, in 2021 her son was diagnosed with autism, sensory processing disorder and clumsiness. They continued to work with the AEA and started seeing physical and occupational therapists. Sarah mentioned that they are very fortunate to be able to work with the AEA and helped transition to preschool services and develop his IEP. The providers are always there to offer support and help answer Sarah's questions. She mentioned that prior to the AEA she felt she had very little support and no one to help advocate for her or her son. They have also been working with him to expand his food/nutrition therapy.

Micki Beard suggested that Sarah could connect with the HHS program, 1st Five, which aims to get providers to offer screenings rather than waiting and seeing.

**Legislative Update:** Thomas Mayes provided an update to the bills in the current legislative sessions. The Iowa Council for Early ACCESS will not be affected by this legislation session as it is required by Iowa law in code. Thomas Mayes discusses the governor's bill regarding Area Education Agencies briefly and how Early ACCESS services are unmentioned. He suggested monitoring the bill closely and stated if something is not mentioned it will not be affected.

**DMS: Differentiated Monitoring and Supports:** Dee Waddell spoke about Early ACCESS Differentiated Monitoring. Early ACCESS has been working hard to increase positive outcomes for children and families. The goal would be to see the data and the trends improve with professional development, accordingly. She also stated that the goal of IDEA is prevention so we focus this into our professional development, policies, practices and data management to ensure we are seeing results. The goal is always to improve implementation.

Kate Small discussed the compliance indicators that are used for determinations. These indicators review timely services, 45-day timeline for initial IFSP, and timely transition. She discussed the three year trend regarding this data and lower performance this past year, in part due to the transition between two data systems. She briefly discussed the FFY 2022 Determinations.

Dee Waddell spoke briefly about the OSEP visit and shared the update that they are now coming in September 2024. Their discovery period will continue until April 2025. In April 2024, the department will be sharing the names of the council members. OSEP will then contact the members for interviews.

#### **Signatory Agency Updates:**

##### **Child Health Speciality Clinic:**

Peg Macek shared that the Year End Review is attached to the end of the agenda . She also added, based on the prior conversation, that all of the CHSC centers do autism screenings and those do not require any prior diagnosis or approval from a doctor.

**Adjourn:** Annette Hyde adjourned the ICEA meeting at 12:30 pm. The next meeting will be Friday, May 10th, 2024.