

# Regional Autism Assistance Program Expert Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2015, 12:30 pm – 3:00 p.m.

## Urbandale Public Library

Name	Organization Represented	Present	
Marilyn Althoff	Hills & Dales	X	
Theresa Armstrong	Iowa Department of Human Services		
Alyson Beytien	Hills & Dales/Family Member	X	
Josh Cobbs	Family Member		
Lauren Cunningham	Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) – 1 <sup>st</sup> Five Program	X	
Sean Peterson	The Pier Center	X	
James Curry	Iowa Autism Council/Family Member		
Peter Daniolos	UI Hospital and Clinics – Child Psychiatrist		
George Estle	Tanager Place		
Stephanie Hood	Briarcliff University	X	
Pamela Fields (Anne Faber)	Keystone AEA	X	
Barbara Guy (Sean Casey & Wendy Trotter)	Department of Education	X	
Tara Underwood-Levin	CHSC – Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP)	X	
Laura Larkin	Iowa Department of Human Services	X	
Marcus Johnson-Miller (Analisa Pearson)	Iowa Department of Public Health	X	
Scott Lindgren	UI Children’s Hospital Autism Center	X	
Marilyn Seemann	MHDS Commission Member	X	
Toni Fuller Merfeld	MetroWest Learning Center		
Steve Muller (Evelyn Horton)	The Homestead	X	
Nathan Noble	Blank Children’s Hospital/Unity Point Health-Developmental Pediatrician		
Tracey Page	ChildServe	X	
Kristine Steinmetz	Autism Society of Iowa/Family Advisor	X	
Debra Waldron (Peggy Swails)	CHSC – RAP	X	
Melissa Havig	Magellan of Iowa		
Carrie Van Quathem	ChildServe		
<b>Others in Attendance</b>			
Leah Podlewski	Family Advisor	Renee Speh	Family Advisor
Allison Schroeder	Family Advisor	Angela Logsdon	Family Advisor
Erika Hertel	CHSC – RAP	Michelle Sunner	Grant Wood AEA
Leann Hotchkiss	CHSC – RAP	Mary Roberts	Family Advisor
Madison Kelley	CHSC – RAP	Amanda Conrad	Family Advisor
Tammy Nyden	Family Advisor		

## Welcome and Introductions

*Facilitator: Tara Underwood-Levin*

- Roll call was taken

## Update on 2015 Legislative Session

*Invited Legislators and Department of Health and Human Services (DHS)*

- Rep. Heaton and other invited legislators were not able to attend meeting
- Rep. Heaton's Telehealth Bill, HF218, is progressing through legislation. The proposed bill will require telehealth to be an option for patients (however, limited to those on Medicaid)

## Update on Autism Support Program (ASP)

*Magellan and DHS*

- The Iowa Autism Council made recommendations to Legislators with hopes of expanding eligibility requirements and increasing accessibility of the ASP (*see Attachment 1*). Some of the recommendations include:
  - ◆ Expanding age requirement (currently under 9 years old)
  - ◆ Increasing income requirement (currently 400% of Federal Poverty Level)
  - ◆ Increasing rates of reimbursement for professionals providing services
- Magellan provided updates on ASP for periods April 2014 to March 2015
  - ◆ 33 applications received to date
  - ◆ 20 of those children were denied because their family did not meet the eligibility requirements (above income, already on Medicaid, eligible for Medicaid, etc)
  - ◆ 13 of those children were approved
    - 5 children are currently accessing services
    - 3 children have since become Medicaid eligible
    - 3 children are on a waiting list with an ABA provider
    - 1 child needs to choose an ABA provider
    - 1 child received an assessment, but has not yet started ABA services
- Other discussion included the necessity of continued efforts to increase awareness of the Autism Support Program.

**UPDATE:** On 4/14/2015, at the request of Representative Dave Heaton, the RAP Expert Advisory Committee Meeting members conveyed their unanimous support of the recommendations presented by the Iowa Autism Council in efforts to expand the accessibility of the Autism Support Program for Iowa's children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

## Update on the Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP)

CHSC

- Pilot Program for Dedicated Priority Slots for ASD Diagnostic Appointments
  - ◆ ARNPs at CHSC regional centers conduct ASD screenings
  - ◆ Children with positive screening results showing they are not on the autism spectrum are not sent to the next level, Early Intervention, so children on the spectrum receive the Early Intervention services they need
- Materials on ASD and RAP were sent to all of the regional centers across the state to help raise awareness
- Outreach Efforts
  - ◆ Social media sites (Facebook and Twitter) are up and coming—all posts require approval through the University of Iowa
  - ◆ The RAP logo is currently being updated and the team will update brochures and other documents once the logo is approved

**UPDATE:** The social media sites are activated.

  - “Like” us on Facebook (Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program)
  - Follow us on Twitter (@IowaRAP)
- The RAP Strategic Planning Committee held its first meeting this morning, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and set a target date of completing the state plan for July 31, 2015 (*see attachment 2 for list of strategic planning committee members*)

## Update on Statewide Telehealth Initiative

Scott Lindgren

- University of Iowa Children’s Hospital receives Telehealth Grant
  - ◆ Recently received funding for telehealth project to learn what is the most effective way to give communication training through telehealth; Collaborative project with multiple states
  - ◆ Project focuses on children with ASD and challenging behaviors, for ages through 6 years and 11 months
  - ◆ Both clinic-to-clinic and clinic-to-home telehealth are highly effective, with over 95% in reduction in problem behaviors. Clinic-to-home telehealth is shown to be slightly more effective with parents trained to assist with the therapy
- Project ImPACT
  - ◆ ImPACT: Improving parents as communication teachers
  - ◆ Improving children’s social communication with their parents as their teachers
  - ◆ Evidence based research from Michigan State
  - ◆ ChildServe will be hosting a training to train providers in June, more information available on their website

## **Update from Workgroup on Roles and Responsibilities for ABA Services**

*Alyson Beytien*

- Looking at strategies to increase ABA provider options to expand services in Iowa
- The model is designed by the Certification Board (*see attachment 3 for more details*)

### **Public Comment**

- None

### **Next Steps and Adjourn**

- Agenda items for the next meeting can be emailed to Peggy Swails at [peggy-swails@uiowa.edu](mailto:peggy-swails@uiowa.edu)
- The next in person meeting will be held in August or September

### **Attachments:**

- 1 – Iowa Autism Council Recommendations to Legislators
- 2 – List of Strategic Planning Committee Members
- 3 – Roles and Responsibilities for ABA Services
- 4 – List of RAP Expert Advisory Committee Members (revised 5/5/2015)

**ATTACHMENT 1: Iowa Autism Council Recommendations to Legislators for ASP**

**AUTISM SUPPORT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Expand the age range for eligible participants from birth through age 8 to birth through age 18**

Comments: ABA works for older children. We originally capped the age at such a young age is to control the potential number of candidates demanding the service. Clearly we are not overwhelmed by numbers of participants so raising the age limit shouldn't dramatically impact the total expense.

**2. Expand the definition of an Autism Service Provider to include the BCaBA performing duties under the supervision of a BCBA as identified by the national certification board (Behavior Analyst Certification Board). Compensate the provider for services rendered by a BCaBA for “oversight” “treatment planning” and “assessment” at a rate between the BCBA and direct service professionals.**

Comments: The limited number of BCBA's in Iowa have made it difficult for children to access services. In Iowa as of February, 2015, there are a total of 73 professionals registered for all levels of certification  
BCBA-D (8)  
BCBA (52)  
BCaBA (13).

BCaBA credentialing requires a four year degree including 135 hours of specific coursework related to applied behavior analysis, 1,000 hours of field work, 100 hours of supervision by a BCBA, and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

The national certification board recognizes the value a BCaBA can provide. We recommend following the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's standards for permitting a BCaBA to conduct specific tasks under the supervision of a BCBA.

Opening up these additional tasks to a BCaBA will do three things:

- A. It frees up the BCBA to do more
- B. It Increases opportunities for children to access services
- C. It provides an important stepping stone - or career ladder for in state professionals to work toward their BCBA.

**3. Pay higher rates.**

Comments: There are still very few providers in this market place. Simple economics suggest a better reimbursement rate will make it more attractive.

**4. Modify income guidelines to allow more families to access the ASP service.**

Comments: This would require legislative action to expand about the 400% of the poverty level.

**ATTACHMENT 2: Regional Autism Assistance Program – Strategic Planning Committee Members**

<b>RAP – Strategic Planning Committee Members</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization Representing</b>
Alyson Beytien	Hills & Dales/Family Member
Marilyn Althoff	Hills & Dales
Wendy Trotter	Department of Education
Tara Underwood-Levin	Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) – RAP
Scott Lindgren	UI Children’s Hospital Autism Center
Steve Muller (Evelyn Horton)	The Homestead
Carrie Van Quathem	ChildServe
Kristine Steinmetz	Autism Society of Iowa/Family Member
Peggy Swails	CHSC – RAP
Leann Hotchkiss	CHSC – RAP
Jessica Beem	Grant Wood AEA
Kelli Robertson	Grant Wood AEA
Michelle Sunner	Grant Wood AEA
Pamela Fields	Keystone AEA
Monica Ryan-Rausch	Grant Wood AEA
Susan Askeland	Grant Wood AEA
Debra Waldron	Division of Child and Community Health, CHSC
<b>Family Advisors</b>	
Renee Speh	Mary Roberts
Kimberly Cooke	Allison Schroeder
Heather Hanzlick-Jaacks	Madeline Shea
Kathleen Kingman	Barb Trijolo
Sarah Lockie	Jacintha Nambi
Erika Hertel	Leah Podlewski
Tammy Nyden	Angela Logsdon
Josh Cobbs	

**ATTACHMENT 3: Roles and Responsibilities of ABA Services**

**The Three Tiered Model as Designed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board**

<b>TITLE/ REIMBURSEMENT RATE</b>	<b>BCBA-D \$\$\$</b>	<b>BCBA \$\$\$</b>	<b>BCaBA \$\$</b>	<b>BT \$</b>
<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>				
Descriptive Assessments (Includes developmental skills assessments, motivational assessments, functional and descriptive analysis of behavior)	X	X	X Under supervision of BCBA/BCBA-D	No
Systematic Assessment (Includes Functional Analyses)	X - may also conduct other assessments as qualified	X	Under supervision of BCBA or BCBA-D	No
Preference Assessment	x	x	X	X
<b>TREATMENT PLANNING/PROGRAM OVERSIGHT</b>				
Develop treatment goals and protocols	x	x	Under supervision of BCBA/BCBA-D	No
Develop data collection system	x	x	x	No
Evaluate client progress	x	x	X	No
Summarize and analyze data	x	x	x	No
Adjust treatment protocols based on data	x	x	X	No
Develop and oversee transition, generalization and discharge plan	x	x	x	No
Direct staff in implementation of new or revised protocols	X	x	X	X only as part of system of training
Monitor treatment integrity	X	X	x	No
Evaluate risk management and crisis management	X	x	Under supervision of BCBA/BCBA-D	No
<b>TRAINING SUPERVISION</b>				
Demonstrate and train skills and techniques to staff	X	x	X	X only in areas with proven competency
Report progress on treatment goals	X	X	X	X only with demonstrated competency
Train and consult with caregivers and professionals	X	X	X	X only in areas with proven competency

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SERVICES**

Implement treatment plan	X	x	X	X
Communicate progress, needs and priorities	X	x	x	x
Graph data	X	x	x	X
Report progress towards goals	X	x	x	x

**Rationale:** The three tiered model is approved by the certification board only with BCaBA’s working directly under the supervision of a BCBA or BCBA-D and with demonstrated competency. The certification board does not differentiate between a BCBA and BCBA-D level but designate equal responsibilities and privileges, THE

See the Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder Practice Guidelines for HealthCare Funders and Managers [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)



**ATTACHMENT 4: Regional Autism Assistance Program Expert Advisory Committee Members**

<b>Regional Autism Assistance Program Expert Advisory Committee Members</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization Representing</b>
Theresa Armstrong	Department of Human Services
Alyson Beytien	Hills & Dales/Family Member
Josh Cobbs	Family Member
Sean Peterson	The Pier Center
James Curry	Iowa Autism Council/Family Member
Peter Daniolos	UI Hospital and Clinics – Child Psychiatrist
George Estle	Tanager Place
Barbara Guy (Sean Casey/Wendy Trotter)	Department of Education
Marcus Johnson-Miller (Analisa Pearson)	Iowa Department of Public Health
Tara Underwood-Levin	CHSC - Regional Autism Assistance Program
Laura Larkin	Department of Human Services
Scott Lindgren	UI Children’s Hospital Autism Center
Marilyn Seemann	MHDS Commission Member/Service Area Manager
Toni Fuller Merfeld	MetroWest Learning Center
Steve Muller (Evelyn Horton)	The Homestead
Nathan Noble	Blank Children’s Hospital/Unity Point Health
Tracey Page	ChildServe
Kristine Steinmetz	Autism Society of Iowa/Family Member
Debra Waldron (Peggy Swails)	CHSC - Regional Autism Assistance Program
Stephanie Hood	Briarcliff University
Lauren Cunningham	CHSC – 1 <sup>st</sup> Five
Maria Valdovinos	Drake University
<b>RAP Family Advisors</b>	
Renee Speh	Mary Roberts
Kimberly Cooke	Allison Schroeder
Heather Hanzlick-Jaacks	Madeline Shea
Kathleen Kingman	Barb Trijolo
Sarah Lockie	Jacintha Nambi
Erika Hertel	Leah Podlewski
Tammy Nyden	Angela Logsdon
<b>Other Invited Organizations &amp; Legislators</b>	
Magellan of Iowa	
Representative Dave Heaton	

Updated 5/5/2015