

**Regional Autism Assistance Program
Expert Panel Advisory Committee Meeting
January 25, 2022, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Via Zoom**

| Name | Organization/Role Representing | Present |
|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Alyson Beytien | Life Connections/Family Member | |
| Josh Cobbs | Family Advisor | X |
| James Curry | Family Advisor | X |
| Connie Fanselow | Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission | X |
| Candice Fedeler | Metro West Learning Center | X |
| Erika Hertel | Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program/Family Member | X |
| Michelle Holst | Iowa Department of Public Health- 1st Five | X |
| Evelyn Horton | Balance Autism | x |
| Bridget Konz | Iowa Department of Public Health | X |
| Aaron Kauer | UI Stead Family Children's Hospital Child & Adolescent Psychiatry | |
| Andrea Keith | Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services | X |
| Lisa Kemmerer | Star Autism Support | |
| Vanessa Kimm | Family Advisor | |
| Shawn Kolb | ChildServe | X |
| Todd Kopelman | UI Stead Family Children's Hospital Child & Adolescent Psychiatry | X |
| Toni Fuller Merfeld | Metro West Learning Center | X |
| Caroline Moniza | Mercy Family Counseling & EAP | X |
| Steve Muller | Balance Autism— | X |
| Michelle Nuehring | Grant Wood AEA | |
| Kelly Pelzel | UI Stead Family Children's Hospital Autism Center | X |
| Mary Roberts | Family Advisor | |
| Leslie Rogers | ChildServe | x |
| Thomas Scholz | Division of Child & Community Health | X |
| Kristine Steinmetz | Autism Society of Iowa/Family Member | X |
| Rachell Swanson-Holm | Learn the Signs. Act Early., Regional Autism Assistance Program | X |
| Wendy Trotter | Iowa Department of Education | X |
| Maria Valdovinos | Drake University | X |
| Brad Zelinger | Stride Autism Centers | X |
| Brianna Harney | Tanager Place, BCBA | |

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator: Erika Hertel

- Roll call was taken, and introductions were made.

Guest Speakers:

Guest speakers from Caravel Autism Health shared an overview of Caravel and their services, their approach to ABA and outcomes.

1. Josh Yelsey, Chief Growth Officer
2. Christine Wilkins, BCBA, APSW, VP Clinical Operations
3. Dr. Kailee Sherer Price, PhD, BCBA, LBA, Clinical Director

Member Updates:

Maria Valdovinos—Drake University

Maria received notice from the provost of discontinuation of the ABA course program. The provost will allow the program to continue as an online program only. However, Drake would need to obtain funding to work on converting the course to online. In the absence of the funding, the program will be discontinued. There are already many on-line programs out there, and Maria created this program in the hopes that persons would come to Iowa and stay in Iowa. Not sure what the next steps will be.

Connie Fanselow, Autism Support Program

Representative Fry and other legislators are working to expand eligibility for the Autism Support Program to include otherwise qualified individuals with private insurance coverage that has an ABA benefit requiring high out-of-pocket costs.



ASP Summary for
ASI Day on the Hill 2



ASP SFY2021 Report
12.15.21FINAL.pdf

Wendy Trotter, Iowa Department of Education

Autism Navigator for Early ACCESS providers:

- interactive web-based professional development course designed to increase the capacity of early intervention providers to better serve infants and toddlers with or at risk for ASD and their families. The 30-hour self-paced course at the Knowledge and Skills level integrates current research with extensive video illustrations covering 5 topics: 1) Improving Early Detection, 2) Collaborating with Families, 3) Developmental Perspectives, 4) Evidence-based Intervention Strategies, and 5) Addressing Challenging Behaviors
- have enrolled Cohort 7 participants (year 7 of the project)
- Face-to-Face workshop this week (for Cohort 7) – Thursday, Jan. 27

Social-Emotional Engagement – Knowledge and Skills (SEE-KS):

- SEE-KS is a professional learning approach that provides freely accessible tools for: 1) measuring student engagement, 2) identifying instructional strategies to increase engagement at universal and higher tiers of support, and 3) providing a structured, appreciative inquiry-based process for educators to mentor one another to sustain the work.
- Washington Elementary in Mt. Vernon, IA – our pilot school – has had 2 coaching sessions
 - Next coaching session with teachers is Feb. 8
- Another AEA has expressed interest in bringing SEE-KS to their area – are in the process of recruiting districts
- Another elementary school in another part of Iowa also expressed interest, working on logistics and timing of when to start

Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) K-6 Reading Comprehension Task Team:

- Reminder of purpose: to build out our existing SDI K6 Literacy modules to include a concentrated focus on reading comprehension with considerations for neurodiverse learners (including Autism Spectrum Disorder - ASD). This work will be focused on students with IEPs who are accurate and automatic at the word/sentence level, but display reading comprehension skill deficits. This work will include DE and AEA collaboration.
- Task team members include those with the following expertise:
 - Knowledge, experience, or expertise specifically in SDI K6 Literacy
 - Knowledge, experience, or expertise specifically in ASD
 - Systemic thinkers willing to develop professional products
- Task team has met several times – working on building modules

Kelly Pelzel- UIHC Stead Family Children's Hospital Autism Center

Save the date for a virtual, all-day conference on March 4 sponsored by the Autism Center and Autism Society of Iowa. Overall discussions will be regarding adults with autism. The morning session is for

providers. The afternoon will be more general with a variety of topics. Registration is up on the ASI website and a Zoom link will be sent closer to the conference: <https://autismia.com/event/adults-and-adolescents-with-autism-diagnosis-and-supports-virtual-conference-via-zoom/>

AUTISM SOCIETY OF IOWA &
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HOSPITALS & CLINICS PRESENT:

ADULTS WITH AUTISM: DIAGNOSIS AND SUPPORTS

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Meng-Chuan Lai, M.D., Ph.D.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4
8:15 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
VIA ZOOM

SPEAKERS
Paige Burden, MA, CCC-SLP
Aaron Kauer, M.D.
Audrey Wood MA, SLP-CF

PANELISTS
Brian Johnson
Todd Kopelman, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Abby Niederhauser
Marie Ugorek
Joey Wesselink

Registration required.
Visit <https://autismia.com/events/> or
scan QR code.

Autism Society of Iowa logo and University of Iowa Health Care logo.

Todd Kopelman - UIHC Stead Family Children's Hospital Autism Center

Talked about conference keynote speaker. They are excited about this conference. It is going to focus on adults with autism. They keynote speaker is well known for talking about diagnostics with adults which is a little different than with children and some cooccurring psychiatric illnesses. He also has research on social camouflaging or "masking" which has become a hot topic in the research and clinical world, with autistic adults speaking as well.

Erika Hertel- Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program

Safety-Care for Families training offerings are a collaboration between RAP and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Department of Psychiatry, Intellectual Disability-Mental Illness Program. Marc Hines, Associate Director of Community Outreach and Advocacy is the instructor. Safety-Care is a training to help participants learn how to minimize and respond to problem behaviors while keeping everyone safe and protecting their dignity. It is appropriate to use with any individual that has developmental, neurological, psychological, or other cognitive impairments and is an evidenced-based approach to managing problem behavior and increasing desired skills.

Trainings were held in Clinton and the Iowa City area since our last meeting. The initial training in Clinton had to be cancelled due to illness and was rescheduled on two dates to accommodate families who were able to choose the date that worked best for them. Both locations had a maximum of 15 signed up in advance. Actual attendance was 11 in Clinton and 10 in Iowa City.

RAP Referrals

The number of new referrals received for RAP services has been nearly double what it was at this time last year. Overall, for the first half of the fiscal year 2173 families have received family navigation services.

Family Navigator Openings

Child Health Specialty Clinics has Family Navigator openings working with RAP in Storm Lake, Des Moines, and Waterloo. The Des Moines position was added to provide additional coverage to that area and to work with Clementine Karl, who is our family navigator there. Candidates need to be the parent or primary caregiver of a child with a special healthcare need. This lived experience counts towards the requirement for a bachelor's degree or an equivalent combination of education and experience. If you know of any candidates who may be interested, feel free to share Erika's contact information.

Kris Steinmetz - Autism Society of Iowa

2022 Autism Acceptance and Advocacy Virtual Day on the Hill was held via Zoom on Thursday, 1/20. They continue to get responses from that, one especially is with childcare. Sarah Trone Garriot is working on that with one of the moms who shared her story on the Day on the Hill that when you go through childcare referral system, there is an optional class on Autism, and she is hoping to make that mandatory to open up some more spots for those with autism. Representative Ann Meyer from Fort Dodge has introduced four bills on psychiatric residencies, changing the Medicaid funding level for those who have more severe psychiatric inpatient needs, rate reimbursement, the ASP fund, loan reimbursement if you will work in a rural area, in certain counties, for at least five years and that is something families have wanted as well. Legislators have continued to email. They have been in contact with those that shared stories and will continue to work towards advocating for things this session that will hopefully help people with Autism. Thanks to everyone who joined that day and talked to legislators.

Rachell Swanson-Holm - Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC)

As part of the COVID-19 resiliency grant, and in conjunction with Child Resource and Referral Program, Kelly Pelzel has agreed to develop a 2-hour educational and instructional plan to work with childcare providers. She will present on autism in the spring and possibly again in the fall. This will be beneficial for our care providers.

Josh Cobbs—Family Advisor, Autism Speaks

This week we launched the Autism Employment Connector Challenge on the Herox (a crowd sourcing company) platform. What they are looking for is individuals, universities, anyone who might have unique ways to connect people with autism to employers. There is prize money available. Here is a link with more information on the challenge:

<https://www.herox.com/autismemploymentconnectorchallenge/teams>

They also have a universal basic design course coming out for transition programs and community colleges and they will be connecting with people in Iowa to help them adapt their curriculum.

Alyson Beytien- Life Connections

Shared via email and with the group: Life Connections has opened an ABA clinic in Harlan, IA and is taking new clients. They already have staff and 3 clients. Erika added that Harlan is in Western Iowa, in Shelby County, and in the area of CHSC's Carroll Regional Center.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2022, 10:30-noon, ZOOM.