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| **Regional Autism Assistance Program**  **Expert Panel Advisory Committee Meeting**  **October 25, 2022, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  **Via Zoom** | | |
| **Name** | **Organization/Role Representing** | **Present** |
| Alyson Beytien | Life Connections, Family Member |  |
| Samantha Cermak | Child*Serve* | X |
| 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 |
| Candace Fedeler | Metro West Learning Center |  |
| Erika Hertel | Regional Autism Assistance Program, Family Member | X |
| Michelle Holst | Iowa Department of Public Health- 1st Five |  |
| Evelyn Horton | Balance Autism | X |
| Aaron Kauer | UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital Child & Adolescent Psychiatry |  |
| Andrea Keith | Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services | X |
| Lisa Kemmerer | Star Autism Support | X |
| Vanessa Kimm | Family Advisor |  |
| Todd Kopelman | UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital Child & Adolescent Psychiatry |  |
| Monica Kurtz | Grant Wood Area Education Agency |  |
| Stacie Lane | Tanager Place | X |
| Toni Fuller Merfeld | Metro West Learning Center | X |
| Caroline Moniza | Mercy Family Counseling & EAP |  |
| Steve Muller | Balance Autism |  |
| Kelly Pelzel | UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital Child & Adolescent Psychiatry | X |
| Mary Roberts | Family Advisor | X |
| Leslie Rogers | Child*Serve* | X |
| Thomas Scholz | Division of Child & Community Health |  |
| 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 |
| James Curry | Family Advisor |  |
| Kristin Hanson | Axis ABA Therapy and Support Services | X |
| Megan Christensen | Metro West Learning Center |  |

### Welcome and Introductions (Facilitator: Erika Hertel)

Welcoming new members

**Member Updates** (Stacie Lane, Tanager Place)

* Currently providing services to ~41 kids between their in-home, clinic, and school services
* Conduct individual ABA services
* Has a very popular Social Skills Program in evenings for different groups of school age kids
* Holding a summer social skills program for kids on the spectrum that’s held during days in summer
* Expanding their programming with workforce limitations
* 1.5-2 year waiting list for mostly ABA clinical services and small wait list for social skills program that’s being taken care of by the new staff
* Do naturalistic teaching and get out into the community and in the clinic

**Primary Discussion Topic:** (Iowa Autism Strategic Plan 2022-2027)

* Original was developed by a committee with CHSC funding
* Did a survey last fall to guide the update of the plan. This helped us learn where we still need to do some work and where we have seen progress. The response was great, the data was compiled and then shared in this Advisory Committee last fall where a subcommittee was formed small committee was formed (Erika Hertel, Evelyn Horton, Leslie Rogers, Wendy Trotter, and Brad Zelinger) to get that updated. The team simply edited the original version and incorporated survey results
* For this meeting, we are asking for feedback and commentary for tweaks and changes
* Hope to market the plan as a living document that can be used by the RAP Expert Panel, the Iowa Autism Council, and legislators and our governor

*Introduction* (read by Erika Hertel with the revisions made in real-time)

* “Autism” was added to the original version clarify the topic of the plan
* Statistics in the first paragraph were updated with current facts
* Added the information about the 2021 survey
* Discussion started about the use of “oral” and “behavioral health”

*Vision, Mission, and Summary of Recommendations* (read by Erika Hertel)

* No suggestions/alterations were made

*A Note about Language* (read by Erika- no suggestions were made on the call)

* Wendy Trotter suggested adding this section which was informed by Ohio’s [2022 Pursuing Quality Lives](https://iwg-autism.org/up_doc/OCALI_PQL2022.pdf) document that is the creative inspiration behind the new Iowa Autism Strategic Plan.

*Section A “Get a Good Start”* (read by Evelyn Horton- no suggestions were made on the call)

* Updates were made to the 1st paragraph of Strategy 2 to bring the recommendations up to date

*Section B “Have Access to and Obtain Needed Services* (read by Evelyn with revisions made in real-time)

* Connie Fanselow- regarding the last bullet under Strategy 3- asked to clarify if “age out of services” referred to educational services. Josh Cobbs clarified that this refers to all services once someone reaches 21. Connie suggested clarification for when they age out and/or what that means.
* Wendy suggested changing the language to “transition to adult services”
* Erika suggested adding “pediatric and school-based services” to clarify
* Strategy 4 had been expanded to help specify health equity issues

*Section C “Have Well-Informed, Empowered, and Supported Individuals, Families and Caregivers”* (read by Leslie Rogers- no suggestions were made on the call)

* Erika explained that the 2nd bullet point was added because they used to have a HRSA grant funded Website, but once that money ran out, it was no longer sustainable

Section D “Successful Transition to Adult Life” (read by Leslie and Wendy- no suggestions were made on the call)

* Multiple bullets had been added per the feedback from the survey

*Section E “Ongoing Coordination of Systems of Care and Support”* (read by Wendy with revisions made in real-time)

* Strategy 11 defining paragraph had multiple tweaks
* Kristin Hanson, Kris Steinmetz, Lisa Kemmerer, Andrea Keith, Leslie Rogers, and Megan Christensen, had a thorough conversation about how each term may be interpreted by various audiences and how to arrange the sentences
* Rachell Swanson-Holm mentioned that the term ‘mental health’ is transitioning to ‘brain health’ in some medical circles. It was decided to leave it as ‘mental health’ for this draft as ‘brain health’ is not widely recognized yet

Finished with the reading at 11:05

**Secondary Discussion Topic:** (Autism Law Summit)

* Erika, Megan, Josh, Rachell attended
* Main take away was an autism [play book](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e596f9f3d0ab46c898b6a45/t/63498add61c32036f54c2d9d/1665764062711/2022-10-12+AutismLawSummit+ThePlaybook.pdf) that was created by attorneys, insurance regulators, and other experts and focuses on how to navigate insurance denials
* Josh provided a 3-hour employment workshop with an employment lawyer and Dan from VR on pre-employment services. Rachell gave a shout out for a job well done
* Megan commented that this was her 5th year going, mentioned the [Autism Law summit website](https://autismlawsummit.com/) and stated that it was a great time to be with like-minded people who are struggling with the same issues. There’s a push for getting quality trained and educated personnel for staffing. They had good insurance workshops and she’s available to discuss that more if anyone is interested. The date for next year isn’t set yet, it should be available around May for an October date.

**Secondary Discussion Topic:** (Need for a Provider meeting)

* Evelyn and Leslie discussed that this concept came from wanting to expand on the strategic plan bullets focused on agency collaboration and communication. It would be nice to be able to work together on various initiative such as Safety Care to promote these to the state. They also discussed that although there is a lot of support systems out there, there’s no place for providers to get together to talk about issues. Providers should get together and talk about provider stuff
* Erika suggested possibly adding a provider portion to the expert committee meetings

**Secondary Discussion Topic:** (Creation of digestible marketing material for the strategic plan)

* Erika and Evelyn discussed creating something that walks people through how all the pieces fit together and gives stakeholders a quick reference for explaining the details
* Rachell wants infographics and Erika would like a link to the plan so they can quick access the document from the synopsis. Would also like printed copies to help focus discussions
* Possibly call this “Strategic Plan at a Glance”
* Kris would like to have this for the Autism Day at the Capital on March 2nd

**Secondary Discussion Topic:** (Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC meeting)

* Josh invited anyone interested to attend the [committee meeting on Wednesday, October 26th](https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/iacc-meetings/2022/full-committee-meeting/october26/).
* He would like to gauge interest in his discussions on Autistic Employment to pinpoint what’s going well, where improvements are needed, etc. [Email him](mailto:josh.cobbs@autismspeaks.org) if you’re interested.

**Secondary Discussion Topic:** ([2022 Autism Society of Iowa Fall Conference and resource fair](https://autismia.com/event/2022-autism-society-of-iowa-fall-conference/))

* November 4th
* [Temple Grandin, Ph.D.](https://www.templegrandin.com/) will speak and there are a lot of good break outs for social relationships, behavior in the home, how to tell your child they have autism, etc., Erika is speaking, and there are parent scholarships for anyone who’s interested. It’s free to anyone with autism and there will be a panel of people with autism who will discuss the issue of masking and other impactful topics

**Secondary Discussion Topic:** (Webinar for Spanish speaking families)

* Kelly Pelzel is working on a webinar that is in Spanish for families with recent diagnoses and she is trying to round up information and resources that are Iowa-specific, Autism-specific social support groups for Spanish speakers. Brad suggested some translation services through Medicaid MCOs and Maria suggested a vocabulary program at Drake for aspiring translators. [Email Kelly](mailto:kelly-pelzel@uiowa.edu) if you have any ideas.

**Action items**

For Erika:

* Send survey to expert panel to reschedule the next meeting due to scheduling conflicts
* Send survey to gauge interest in adding on a provider portion to the expert committee
* Share the pre-employment workshop by Josh with the group once that’s available
* Contact Family Navigators to see if they have any ideas for Kelly’s Spanish webinar project
* Work with Ursula to create the one-page document
* Take Strategic Plan to Iowa Autism Council meeting and get it finalized with graphics

Meeting ends at 11:25

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 10:30-12:00