

**Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP)
Expert Panel Advisory Committee Meeting
August 26, 2020
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Via ZOOM**

Name	Organization/Role Representing	Attended in person or via Zoom
Alyson Beytien	Life Connections/Family Member	X
Josh Cobbs	Family Advisor	X
Kimberly Cooke	Family Advisor	
James Curry	Family Advisor	X
Connie Fanselow	Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission	X
Candice Fedeler	Metro West, Clive	X
Brianna Harvey	Tanager Place	X
Erika Hertel	RAP/Family Member	X
Michelle Holst	Iowa Department of Public Health- 1st Five	
Leann Hotchkiss	Family Advisor	
Marcus Johnson-Miller (Analisa Pearson)	Iowa Department of Public Health	X
Aaron Kauer	UIHC Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	X
Andrea Keith	Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services	X
Vanessa Kimm	Family Advisor	
Shawn Kolb	ChildServe	X
Toni Fuller Merfeld	Metro West Learning Center	X
Caroline Moniza	Mercy Family Counseling & EAP	X
Steve Muller	Balance Autism	X
Nathan Noble	Blank Children's Hospital	
Michelle Nuehring (Kelli Robertson)	Grant Wood AEA	X
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	
Kristine Steinmetz	Autism Society of Iowa/Family Member	X
Jill Stevenson	Family Advisor	X
Rachell Swanson-Holm	Learn the Signs. Act Early., RAP	X
Wendy Trotter	Iowa Department of Education	
Maria Valdovinos	Drake University	X
Kathy Francois	Administrative Support	X
Guests		
Dave Kearon	Autism Speaks New York	X

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator: Erika Hertel

- Roll call was taken and introductions were made.

Guest Speakers:

David Kearon

Director, Adult Services, Autism Speaks

New York, NY

Josh Cobbs

Manager, Employment Initiatives, Autism Speaks--- Josh is also a Family Advisor on the RAP Expert Panel

Sioux City, IA

Josh and Dave gave a presentation on new tools becoming available for employers and those seeking employment through an Autism Speaks program. There is a pilot about to begin at the Lee Container Corporation in Centerville, IA.

Dave shared that this program is being developed by autistic persons and will be very good.

The first course begins next month with a general overview of under employment in Iowa and how to create welcoming workplaces for not just persons with autism, but all disabilities.

The second course will focus on self-advocacy skills for job seekers

The third course is for vocational rehab trainers and coaches.

The final course is basically a TA series regarding recruiting neuro-diverse talent and creating an autism friendly workplace. The slides are attached.



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Member Updates:

Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC): Rachell Swanson-Holm shared CHSC has applied for a small grant from the CDC that is tied with the Learn the Signs. Act Early. Program. The grant will focus on 3 projects with 1st Five, Child Care Resource and Referral, and WIC. The grantees will be notified on September 1.

CHSC is using HRSA grant funding and partnering with RAP to provide a webinar series entitled Autism Learning Community. There are CEUs offered for RNs, SW, FN, RD, etc. Flyers will be shared ongoing, with the next webinar offered in September.

Erika shared RAP partnered with the Autism Society of Iowa and Stead Family Children's Hospital Autism Center to provide a training for MCO's titled *Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Primer for Case Managers*

In June which was well attended. The recording continues to be available for future access. RAP partnered with the Stead Family Children's Hospital Autism Center and the Iowa City Autism Community to present a Workshop series to be held virtually due to COVID. *"When My Worries Get Too Big!" Supporting Kids' Emotional Regulation* with Autism Consultant and author Kari Dunn Buron will be held September 18.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS): Andrea Keith states IVRS is partnering with Autism Speaks to form an Autism Advisory Task Force to help staff work better with individuals with ASD. IVRS continues to hold appointments, mostly virtually with some in person.

University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital Autism Center: Kelly Pelzel announced some staff changes: Jon Goodwin, PhD has left to take a position at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Dr. Peter Daniolos has left since his spouse took a new position in Boston; Dr. Allen Anderson will take over for Dr. Daniolos working on the Child & Adolescent Psychiatry ASD diagnostic team with Todd Kopelman PhD, BCBA; two new Psychologists have joined the staff at the Center for Disabilities and Development: Amanda Berns and Jillian Reiher. There are still 5 diagnostic teams per week.

Drake University: Maria Valdovinos shared Drake is developing a new online Applied Behavior Analysis program to begin spring of 2022 and are hiring new faculty for this. The RFP was released for the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) funds available to support Iowa residents who are attending school to become board certified behavioral analysts.

Questions and Other Discussion

- **Josh Cobbs asked -What is everyone doing for day habilitation during COVID and are any open?**
There were no answers. Erika concurred this is a concern for many families during all of this uncertainty.
- **Family Concerns:** Families are struggling with IEPs, deciding on school plans, how to care for children if school isn't in person. Families are asking about funds for them to stay home to care for their children with a special needs, daycare for children vs. school, and concerns about online learning for students who would have an aid while in school.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2020, 10:00 am- noon.