

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
Minutes – June 22, 2023**

Agenda Item	Discussion		Action Items
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:</p>		
	- Lynn Amell	- Cheryl Hogan	
	X Jessica Benton	X Leah Esther Lax	
	- Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	X Lidiya Lednyak	
	X Heidi Bond	X Lynn Shea- Rochester	
	- Raymond Bowman	X Robin Stegman	
	X Bonnie Catlin	X Angella Timothy	
	X Cheryl Schaefer Coppola- Rochester	X Elina Tsenter	
	X Brigitte Desport- MARO	- Antonia Weidner	
	X Amy DeVito	X Marina Yoegel	
	- Melissa Groth	X Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
	X Steven Held		
	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Department of Health staff present: Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Connie Donahue, Joanne Gerber, Diane Ginsburg, Michael Iorio, Ken Moehring, Travis O'Donnell, Ray Pierce, William Sacks, Jennifer Sandshaw, and Kirsten Siegenthaler.</p> <p>Guests: Marian Bellas- Westchester County DOH, Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs, Nancy Hampton- NYS Council on Children and Families, Chana Horowitz- Hamaspik of Kings County, Brad Hutton- Hutton Health Consulting, Rob Lillpopp- PCG, Paul Ross- PCG, Paula VanMeter- PCG, and Lauren Zelinsky- PCG.</p> <p><i>All references to the Department refer to the New York State Department of Health, BEI to the Bureau of Early Intervention, and EI to the Early Intervention Program.</i></p>	
<p>Raymond Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI), called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., and announced that Steve Held has been fully appointed as the EICC Chair.</p> <p>Steve Held, EICC Chair, asked the Council to review and approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes, A motion was made by Leah Esther Lax and a second by Amy DeVito to approve the March 9, 2023, meeting minutes. Twelve (12) members voted in-favor, none abstained or opposed. The minutes from the March 9, 2023, meeting passed.</p> <p>The next EICC full Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, August 2, 2023, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.</p>			

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<p>New Business <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p> <p><i>Bureau Administrative Updates (continued)</i></p> <p><i>Vice-Chair Vote</i></p> <p><i>Letters from the EICC to the Governor and DOH Commissioner (added item)</i></p> <p><i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Update</i></p> <p><i>2023-2024 Executive Committee</i> <i>2023-2024 Task Forces</i></p> <p><i>Bylaws Amendment Vote</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) introduced Travis O'Donnell, the new Director for the Center of Community Health (CCH). The CCH includes the Division of Family Health, which houses the Early Intervention Program; announced that Dr. James McDonald was confirmed as Commissioner of the Department of Health on June 10th; recognized Dawn Smith for her work for the EICC. Dawn left the BEI for a promotional opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023 determination was received from the Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs and received the highest rating of meets requirements. • Federal Part C Program for Early Intervention received a boost in funding. • There was not a rate increase for Early Intervention this budget season but will try again. Support for the rate increase is advocated through our DOH leadership, including Dr. McDonald and the Legislature. • Provided a Covered Lives update. • The Telehealth Guidance document has been drafted. • Updated on the work on infant/childhood mental health. • Updated on EICC provider recruitment efforts. Please let Ray know if there are events that BEI should be part of. With enough notice, BEI will send a representative to events and talk about the EI program and recruit new providers. • EI Hub is in the testing cycle. <p>• Ballots will be tallied when all ballots are received from the remote meeting sites.</p> <p>Steve Held, EICC Chair, introduced two (2) letters from the EICC; one to Gov. Hochul about the motion we passed in the last session, asking that the 11% be considered in the 2024 budget and a second to the DOH Commissioner summarizing the provider shortage and the EICC efforts to recruit and retain them, asking to make the Early Intervention Program a priority in the 2024 budget request to the Governor. with an invitation to speak at the September EICC meeting. A motion was made by Lidiya Lednyak and a second by Marina Yoegel to approve the sending of the letters. Eleven (11) voted in favor, one (1) abstained, none opposed. The motion passed.</p> <p>Joanne Gerber, MS RN, Bureau of Perinatal, Reproductive, and Sexual Health (BPRASH) provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance materials have approved by the department. • Elizabeth Rialdi is the new Program Coordinator of EHDI, replacing Zahra Alaali. • Connie Donahue discussed proposed amendments to infant referral regulations. <p>Steve Held, EICC Chair, encouraged members to consider filling the seats that are open for the 2023-2024 year. The Provider Workforce Capacity and Rate Setting Methodology task forces will continue.</p> <p>The new provision makes explicit a charge to the council to consider matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion. A motion was made by Marina Yoegel and a second by Lidiya Lednyak to approve the bylaws amendment. Thirteen (13) voted in favor, none opposed or abstained. The motion passed.</p> <p>Heidi Bond discussed that children, babies, newborns with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) were not being referred. By the time they reached preschool programs, they were having trouble being in the classroom or even attending the needed services. She asked to consider making NAS an automatic qualifier.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the September 14, 2023, meeting • BEI estimated that the Telehealth Guidance document will be ready to share by the end of the summer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion to send letters from the EICC to the Governor and DOH Commissioner passed. • Stakeholders to be informed when the finalized technical assistance materials are on the website by BEI. • Bylaws amendment passed. • May be able to discuss qualifier at the September meeting.

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<p>Report of Department Activities</p> <p><i>BEI Training, Technical Assistance, and SSIP/Outcomes Updates</i></p>	<p>Patricia Zuber-Wilson discussed disparities in terms of access to services and hearing from families about their challenges and barriers. BEI can consider expanding training for service coordinators (SC) and evaluators in trauma, informed care, harm reduction and plans of safe care topics.</p> <p>Michael Iorio, BEI Training, Technical Assistance, and SSIP/Outcomes Unit provided updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statewide Training (new Early Intervention Officers (EIOs) and Managers (EIMs) training) and Partners Training (a free training program available to families and children in the program). RFP will be issued in the summer. • Technical assistance and publications (Developmental Assessment Instrument List, Health and Safety Guidance document, Early Help Makes a Difference Parents Brochure) and the Telehealth Guidance • The Family Outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEI to consider expanding SC and evaluator training • BEI will investigate working with the boards regarding EI training counting toward CEUs • BEI to consider having the Family Outcomes Survey smartphone enabled
<p>Lunch Break</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12:30 p.m. to 1:18 p.m.</p>	
<p>Report of Task Force Activities</p> <p><i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force (Including Competency-Based Training and Telehealth) Update</i></p> <p><i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Updates</i></p>	<p>Marina Yoegel, EIO Westchester County, Task-Force Chair and Lidiya Lednyak, EIO NYC, Task-Force Co-Chair provided updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Intervention Program Telehealth Draft Guidance Document • The CUNY Academic Partner Research Team (reviewing the regulations to identify how the core competencies could be included, identifying sections of regulations to make possible recommendations around EI field work and clinical work experiences, identifying specific languages for inclusion around best practices for telehealth) • The Telehealth Surveys • Co-Treatment Guidance Document next steps <p>Leah Ether Lax inquired about families who don't have access to telehealth equipment. Ray Pierce responded that BEI could send out a listing of the different trade organizations with the addresses and their contact information for TRAIID (Technology Related Assistance to Individuals with Disabilities).</p> <p>Steve Held, EICC Chair, Task Force Chair, provided Rate Setting Methodology Task Force updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force update will be given at the September 14, 2023, meeting • Diane Ginsburg will email TRAIID information to Leah Esther Lax • Rate Setting Methodology Task Force update will be given at the

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		September 14, 2023, meeting
<p>Report of Additional Department Activities <i>EI Hub Update</i></p> <p><i>PCG (State Fiscal Agent - SFA) Update</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>Paul Ross, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from PCG provided EI Hub updates</p> <p>Paula Van Meter, PCG, provided State Fiscal Agent update</p> <p>Kenneth Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit, Fiscal Agent Payment Data update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Held requested that Ken present at the next meeting in the interest of time. </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the EI Hub will be given at the September 14, 2023, meeting • An update from PCG will be given at the September 14, 2023, meeting • An update from the Fiscal Agent Payment Data will be given at the September 14, 2023, meeting
Future Agenda Items	<p>No future agenda items were discussed.</p> <p>EICC Members can also submit future agenda items to BEI via email.</p>	
Public Comment	None submitted	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 3:00 p.m.	