



Department  
of Health

# Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update

EICC Meeting  
June 10, 2020

Linda Rennie, Task Force Co-Chair  
Marina Yoegel, Task Force Co-Chair

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## Task Force Members

- **Chairperson:** Linda Rennie and Marina Yoegel
- **Parents:** Leah Esther Lax, Amy DeVito, Talina Jones
- **Providers:** Steve Held
- **Muni Rep:** Heidi Bond
- **State Agency:** Nora Yates
- **Managed Care Rep:** Cheryl Hogan
- **DOH Staff:** Peter Baran (lead), Katie Reksc (support), Dawn Smith (support)
- **Advisors:** Lidiya Lednyak (NYC EI), Roxana Inscho (Monroe EI)



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## Task Force Proposed Charter

**Charge:** To develop recommendations for the Department to increase provider workforce capacity to deliver EI services to eligible children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. The objective is to improve timeliness of EI service delivery for children and families participating in the Early Intervention Program.



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## Topic Priority and Focus:

### 1. Conditional Approval/Review of the 1600 hour Requirement

- Conditional approval of EI Providers
- Review the 1600-hour requirement
- Quality Assurance Plans and Professional Requirements
- Technology solutions/GIS locator/Information sharing
- Connections with high schools, colleges, & universities that prepare students/potential EI service providers

### 2. Service delivery methods or models to enhance capacity to deliver EI services to underserved areas/zip codes

- Telehealth
- BEI Call to New Jersey



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### Topic Priority 1: Conditional Approval/Core Competencies

- 1) The Task Force discussed the use of the Foundational Early Intervention Core Competencies when the applicant is verifying years of experience in order for BEI to grant Conditional Approval as well as using for time earned towards the 1600 hour requirement (what components should be included in graduate education program as they relate to the 1600 hour requirement)
- 2) The Task Force also discussed the possibility of colleges and universities developing a specification for EI since licensed providers are able to provide services from ages birth and beyond



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### Topic Priority 1: Conditional Approval/Review of the 1600 hour Requirement

**Current EI Regulations:** 1,600 hours of experience working with children, with disabilities/delays since the issuance of licensure or certification.

**Prior to 2010 Regulations:** 2 years of experience providing services to children under the age of 4½ years old, with disabilities/delays, within the last 5 years.

**Conditional Approval:** was granted to individuals who did not have the full 2 years of experience. To be granted permanent approval an individual had to submit a notarized Verification of Work Experience outlining their: Employment dates, EI Agency Employer, Title, and Duties.

At the time of Conditional Approval there was no verification of a provider's competencies.



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## Topic Priority 2: Service delivery methods or models to enhance capacity to deliver EI services to underserved areas/zip codes

- 1) NYSAC Resolutions – obtain exact language of resolutions put forth at the meeting on January 27, 2020
- 2) Provider Survey – discussion about sending a survey to providers to identify barriers associated with servicing families in underserved areas/zip codes
- 3) Promising Practices – discussion, information sent to the State and task force advisor
- 4) Public Safety – discussion, information needed from community
- 5) NYC LEICC – running focus groups the end of February/beginning of March with families of color that don't make it through evaluation, will share information obtained
- 6) Community Centers – discussion about appropriate settings for EI children to receive services in the community, example libraries with adequate space available



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## Call with NJ BEI

- For 10 years, the New Jersey BEI has provided security companions for service providers traveling to potentially dangerous areas
- The provider can request or be offered a security companion if traveling to an area with recent activity
- Security is provided by private agencies, local police officers or retired officers
- Security does not wear uniforms or drive in marked cars, all undercover
- No family information is shared, only the location. Security personnel never interact with families or enter the home
- Security persons usually meet the provider at the service location, but sometimes will meet at an agreed to location and drive together
- All providers are trained on staying safe, precautions to take, and what to be aware of. Local police officers provide training in NJ for free
- NJ funds security through their Part C Grant and serves 27,000 children annually
- NJ spends approximately \$300,000 annually on security (if the family or provider cancel, security still must be paid)



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## Recommendations to NY State EICC

1. Recommend to reduce 1600 hour requirement by 1/3 to 1,000 hours
  - Move this recommendation forward to Regulatory Change status
  - Training details to be worked out as Regulatory change moves forward
2. Recommend NY State to consider rates:
  - to address public safety
  - for service delivery methods to address capacity in underserved areas, including telehealth



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## Timeline/Next Steps

- Proceed with Regulatory change(s)
- Establish secondary workgroup to address training details



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# Questions

