

Katie Reksc: Good morning, everyone. It is Katie Reksc from the Bureau of Early Intervention. Today we are here for the Early Interviewing Coordinating Council Executive Council Committee Meeting on October 7. I'm just gonna quickly go through to confirm who we have on the call today. Is Heidi Bond on? Heidi's not on yet. Amy DeVito? Amy's not on. Marina Yoegel?

Marina Yoegel: Good morning.

Katie Reksc: Good morning. Steve Held?

Steve Held: Hi.

Katie Reksc: Morning. Talina did notify us that she had a work call. She will try and join but she may not be able to. So Paola?

Paola Jordan: Present.

Katie Reksc: Good morning. Elina?

Elina Tsenter: Good morning.

Katie Reksc: Good morning. Linda?

Linda Rennie: I'm here.

Katie Reksc: Good morning. And Nora Yates is unable to join us as well. From the Department of Health, we have Pete Baran.

Peter Baran: Hi, everyone.

Katie Reksc: Connie?

Connie Donohue: I'm here.

Katie Reksc: Ken.

Ken Moehring: Present.

Katie Reksc: Mike.

Mike Iorio: Hi, I'm here.

Katie Reksc: And Jessica.

Jessica Simmons: Hi, I'm here.

Katie Rekse: Morning. Dawn?

Dawn Smith: Yes, good morning.

Katie Rekse: Good morning. Lauren is unable to make it, and then Yan Wu?

Yan Wu: Good morning.

Katie Rekse: Good morning. And then listening in we have Rob _____ from PCG.

Rob: Yep.

Katie Rekse: And Molly Fleming. Have you joined _____? Okay, she's not on yet either. All right, and with that, I will hand it over to you to start, Connie.

Connie Donohue: Okay, sounds good. Thank you, Katie. Well, as everyone knows, we're convened to figure out the agenda for the December 3 Early Intervention Coordinating Council Meeting. Seems like we were just together a very short time ago for the last EICC meeting. And in front of you I'm hoping is the proposed agenda for the December 3 meeting.

So first up would be that we will approve the minutes from the September 24, 2020, meeting, vote on those at the December 3 meeting. The next thing is the EICC Task Force on Provider Workforce Capacity, and now a subgroup of teletherapy, or subtopic on teletherapy update. So that will certainly provide an update on the work of that group in December.

We generally have program updates, and those will include in December, the annual performance report. Everyone knows that the December meeting is devoted in substantial part to the annual performance report, and Yan will go through that with us, and that's the EICC's report for the year as well. So we'll spend time on that. And then there may be an early intervention program proposed regulation package. We're working on one, and so if we're prepared by the December meeting, we will certainly want to go over that with the Early Intervention Coordinating Council so that people can hear what changes are being proposed. So that's part of our plan is to have that prepared by – ready to go by early-December.

The Office of Special Education Programs in the US Department

of Education, which oversees Early Intervention has a new monitoring in place. It's called Differentiated Monitoring and Support, or DMS 2.0. And we had a kickoff meeting on that yesterday, and so they'll begin monitoring – New York happened to be in the first cohort of states being monitored, so it's a five-year cycle, and it goes from now until what year, 2024. And so we are preparing some fiscal information for that DMS, and we wanna share with the EICC what we know about the monitoring protocol and at that point where we are in the process in December.

We'll provide a Support for Operational Management of the EIP/RFP Implementation and talk about the EI Hub and give some updated fiscal agent data. And I'll stop there for a second to see if there's any comment or question about any of the items so far.

Steve Held: Do you know, Connie, what the role of the EICC would be in the new monitoring and how did we get lucky to be first again?

Connie Donohue: I don't know specifically what the role will be other than I think it would be reasonable for the department to keep you informed on the monitoring. And I think it's too early in the process for us to know what sort of assistance or help we might need from the EICC, but it sounds as though, in the short run, we'll be gathering some data, answering questions related to our system of payments, which is something that's on file with _____, and was reviewed in 2017, from yesterday's discussion, and we did well on it. So that's the starting point, and there'll be many other things I'm sure that will be looked at along the way to make sure that New York complies with the federal requirements for Part C of IDEA. And I think, at least in the short run, we wanna keep you informed, and then if there's any more to be done, we will certainly tell you that as well. Does that help, Steve?

And I guess, Steve, since I'm new to the – I haven't had this experience before, how was EICC involved in prior monitoring? Do you know? Does anybody recall?

Steve Held: Yes. When Alma had come to visit, there was a period of time where she did address some of us that were identified as members of the EICC. I think it was helpful because we could be supportive of our lead agency and the type of work that the department allows us to do in an advisory capacity. She had made mention at that time that it was unusual and she was quite pleased to hear about the representation, the spirit of the meetings, and it was unique to her versus other programs. She also had identified through us some

of the programs locally that she might visit. So it was quite a while ago, though.

Connie Donohue: Yeah, it was. I think it was around 2007 they said our last site visit. And the other thing I will say is that, in Year 1, from what we can tell so far, in Year 1, it's really laying the groundwork. I think we have a lot of policies and procedures and documentation to provide. And then in Year 2 would be the site visit, and Year 2 begins a year from now. We talked yesterday about that. So it begins in October 2021. Hopefully COVID-19 will be in the history books by then and _____ will make a site visit then. So I point out that may well be the time when there would be an opportunity for in-person conversation with _____ from the EICC members and/or visits to various provider agencies or _____.

Hi, it's Connie. I heard a beep. I don't know if that was somebody dropping off and joining again or somebody joined. Oh, Heidi, I see you're there.

Heidi Bond: Yes, hi.

Connie Donohue: Good morning.

Heidi Bond: Good morning.

Connie Donohue: Okay, so those are the program updates, and then a couple of additional discussion items are PCG's progress, and then health homes. We think we certainly haven't had a health home presentation in a little while. There are some, I guess, changes and some things are evolving in the health home world, and it seems reasonable that we would wanna have an update from the health home folks in December. We've been – just so you know, we've been working back and forth with them on various things to help sort out how families can make good decisions about where they need to land in terms of health home and fee for service Medicaid and home and community-based services waive and/or early intervention. So those connections we're definitely working through, and we will have some updates I'm sure by December.

Paola Jordan: Connie, this is Paola. If this is the same follow-up as what we had last year for the health home care management?

Connie Donohue: I don't know what you mean by the same follow-up.

Paola Jordan: Because I remember them last year they – Pat Murphy, she came to present about the program, and I believe it was the whole

timeframe with implementation, and this is what I understood from the meeting it was going to be for the small number of infants and toddlers, and I remember in the meeting that we mentioned if they wanna provide an update about how the ____ implementation was, you know, looks like. I'm just trying to connect if we're talking about the same program or not.

Connie Donohue: Same program, Paola, thank you. Yes, for clarification, same program and so implementation is further along now than it was, and so we'll get an update on that and also how it fits for early intervention.

Paola Jordan: Okay, excellent. Yes, because this is one of those presentations that I save because I'm interested in getting to know what happened in that here in the city. And I remember that happened during the meeting in September of last year at the EICC.

Connie Donohue: Okay, thanks. Good memory. Any additional items or things that we should be considering, either for December or I guess ____?

Steve Held: I was hoping I could throw out an idea. I understood that Brad Hutton had recently retired, and he was dynamic when he first came to the EICC. It was so clear to me at the time that he was a bright young guy. To me, everybody's young, but even then he was a young guy, and he had been doing a lot with cancer research. Many of you that are closer to my age and have been involved know that he took it upon himself not only to learn the regulations and the EI program, but he actually had the ability to go on the road and visit with families in different parts of the state. I was just so very impressed by him, and I was hoping that we – the EICC could, even without him, provide a plaque and a little ____ as a thank you to what he had done.

And I'm not – Connie, I'm not blowing any smoke. I will say that to fill his shoes would have been very hard, and I've been through a number of directors, and you have done it. If anything, I just can't believe how you've engaged families in this state and the integrity of the EI program in the tough times that you had, but you're not leaving, thankfully, so we'll – if I'm still alive, we'll talk about a plaque then, but right now I just think many of us –

Connie Donohue: I hope you'll stick around, Steve, really. I love that idea about Brad. I have to say personally, when I came back, I was happy to know and somewhat relieved to know that Brad was in the building and that if I need something, I could really truly just go up to the 14th floor and say do you have a few minutes, and he would

always have a few minutes. So I love that idea that we would do something to recognize his many contributions to EI, and we all – and especially I have benefitted greatly from them, so he was – it was really great to have him here, and I think because of the pandemic, it's harder to appreciate that certain people are sort of not here, but I will tell you when I'm in the building like today, I go up at lunchtime, everybody who works with me knows I go up and get a little bit of coffee upstairs and I stop off on 14 on my trip, and I do glance at that office and think, oh, I hope he's great, I hope everything's good. So I'm interested to see what his next chapter will be. So I think that's a great idea, Steve, and also thank you for the kind words. I had the pleasure of doing the family initiative meeting on Friday evening, and it's always fun to see families. It's one of my favorite activities, and I didn't even mind the traveling, although at this point in time, everybody's virtual, so it seemed to work out, though not the same as in the room together, but we'll get there.

So all right, anything else? I'm gonna add on – and I don't know if that's something that Brad could actually get on the line for. I'm gonna guess we're gonna do a virtual meeting in December, but we can check on that.

Paola Jordan:

Connie, I have a question for you and for the committee today. Right now we're living a specific interesting time here in New York City with the whole dynamics around COVID-19 and possible closures based on ZIP Codes and then maps and different things. And this goes back again with my comment during the EICC about communication with families. I would like to know, Connie, if there's a possibility for _____ committee to explore possibilities that doesn't rely only on communication from service coordinator to parents, but also from the department – the local departments to families with situations like this one happen. Like for example, here in the city, they say during the weekend that they're planning to close certain ZIP Codes on Wednesday, but then the governor jump and say, no, we're gonna do it earlier. I don't think that it's even possible for agencies and service coordinators to be – to react as fast as we wanted it to be when we have new _____.

And my concern is that this is not gonna be an isolated incident. I can see that we're gonna have this down the road for the next couple of months, especially now that the winter is coming, the flu is coming, and I really – I'm very concerned just to see the level of misinformation, for example, me working the parent center, I don't get any information in terms of what's going on with EICC in

terms – I'm sorry, with early intervention in terms of new documents or something like that. I _____ the state level, but my point is I've still seen on social media that now there's some documents out there that was sent to providers indicating that no in-person services in certain ZIP Codes, but there is nothing, like, out there for the public. And I went to the web site – my point is that's very confusing, Connie.

Connie Donohue: I agree, Paola. Certainly it's a very confusing time. And so let's pretend for a minute that this hot spot happened in, I don't know, in Franklin County. Let's just pretend for a minute. If it did, then Franklin County has a local administrator of the early intervention program would be responsible for implementing whatever public health measures they need to implement to manage what clearly is a growing problem. So I would refer you to New York City BEI and Lydia and team for specific information or questions about the municipality. And I understand it's a very big county, but it's a specific set of ZIP Codes, and we've been obviously in communication with New York City but also referring questions to them because it's really their local health department that's managing this particular outbreak. So I would refer you there, and really it's not – in many respects, New York City's obviously very large, but we have to – they're the local administrators of the program, New York City DOHMH, so we would handle this like any other outbreak, and I really hope they're few and far between, but it certainly is, you know, disheartening to see that the numbers are climbing.

Paola Jordan: So what I'm hearing is that this is going to be a local level and then, depending on the _____ or when we have a spike in COVID cases, we need to look at the local level to see what is going to be their guidance, right.

Connie Donohue: Yep.

Paola Jordan: As a council, can we recommend for the municipalities to have that information available on their web site in a timely fashion manner?

Connie Donohue: I think you certainly can request that at the local level. You know, how New York City does that and how they communicate it out, I mean, remember that this all started over the weekend, and there was discussion about what would happen with the schools in that concentrated area, and then the local health department took over from there. So again, it's not even 24 hours old. I would suggest that we communicate with New York City and make your suggestion in terms of how you think the information should be

out. And remember, in the end, many times it will be service coordinators that convey the information too, so from the agencies as they start to retool and figure out how they're gonna revert back to March, if you will, and tell us only teletherapy only for a short – hopefully a short time. We'll see.

Paola Jordan: All right, thanks.

Connie Donohue: You're welcome. Anything else? We have sent good thoughts to everybody who is affected by this closure. It's not just EI, right. Many children and families are affected in many different ways. I think one good thing in the middle of it, though, also is that our teletherapy without a visual component guidance went out, so there are alternatives for situations where people don't use technology or don't have maybe adequate technology. So I think that may help us this time around a little bit, and hopefully this will be behind us before we know it.

Anything else related to the December 3 meeting? We have a pretty packed agenda, as usual, and we appreciate everybody's thinking and input. And if nothing else, we will – I think we can probably adjourn. All right, sounds good. Thanks everyone for joining us, and we look forward to the next EICC meeting.

Male: Thank you.

Connie Donohue: Take care, everybody.

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