

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – December 3, 2020**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																												
Welcome	The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:																																													
	<table><tr><td>x</td><td>Jessica Benton</td><td>x</td><td>Leah Esther Lax</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner</td><td>x</td><td>Melissa Puchalski</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Heidi Bond (late)</td><td>x</td><td>Linda Rennie</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Donna Bradbury</td><td>x</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Amy De Vito</td><td>x</td><td>Lynn Shea</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Karen Edwards</td><td>x</td><td>Elina Tsenter</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Meghan Glass</td><td>x</td><td>Antonia Weidner</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Steve Held</td><td>x</td><td>Nora Yates (Angella Timothy, non-voting)</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Cheryl Hogan</td><td></td><td>Marina Yoegel</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Talina Jones</td><td>x</td><td>Kayleigh Zaloga (late)</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Paola Jordan</td><td></td><td>Patricia Zuber -Wilson</td></tr></table>	x	Jessica Benton	x	Leah Esther Lax	x	Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	x	Melissa Puchalski	x	Heidi Bond (late)	x	Linda Rennie	x	Donna Bradbury	x	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola		Amy De Vito	x	Lynn Shea	x	Karen Edwards	x	Elina Tsenter	x	Meghan Glass	x	Antonia Weidner	x	Steve Held	x	Nora Yates (Angella Timothy, non-voting)	x	Cheryl Hogan		Marina Yoegel	x	Talina Jones	x	Kayleigh Zaloga (late)	x	Paola Jordan		Patricia Zuber -Wilson	
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Department of Health staff present: Peter Baran, Constance Donohue, Mike Iorio, Kenneth Moehringer, Katherine Reksc, Jessica Simmons, Dawn Smith, Angella Timothy (representing Nora Yates (non-voting)), Lauren Tobias, Yan Wu																																														
All references to the <b>Department</b> refer to the New York State Department of Health, <b>BEI</b> to the Bureau of Early Intervention, and <b>EI</b> to the Early Intervention Program.																																														
Welcome	Talina Jones, EICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. and thanked Council Members for attending the virtual Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) meeting.	• The next full Council meeting is March 23, 2021 • The next Executive Committee meeting is January 26, 2021																																												
	The next EICC full Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 23, 2021 from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be a virtual meeting. The next Executive Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 26, 2021.																																													
Approval of Minutes	Ms. Jones informed the Council that the minutes from the September 25, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.  A motion was made by Karen Edwards and a second by Lynn Shea to approve the September 24, 2020 meeting minutes. Sixteen (16) members voted in favor, none opposed, and none (0) abstained. The minutes from the September 24, 2020, meeting passed.																																													
New Business Bureau Administrative Updates  Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS 2.0)  COVID-19 Update	Dr. Donohue presented on the DMS 2.0, a new OSEP protocol (see presentation - these slides are excerpts from the August 26 <sup>th</sup> Office of Special Education Programs, National Technical Assistance Meeting). BEI is in Cohort 1. DMS 2.0 is focused on improved outcomes and results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Every state receives a monitoring visit in each cycle. There are three phases: 1) Pre-site and Preparation 2) Monitoring and 3) Post-visit Correction and Technical Assistance. The general concept that OSEP uses is called results driven accountability, to improve results for children with disabilities. BEI is in Phase 1 and the timeline was reviewed.  Since the last EICC meeting in September, the Department has not issued any additional formal FAQ's. There is Guidance on cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting objects and materials for Early Intervention purposes that is currently under review within the Department and will be posted once approved. There are nine Guidance documents posted on the Department's website and they have been disseminated via the Early Intervention listserv.	• An update on COVID-19 will be provided at the March 2021 meeting																																												

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<p><i>EHDI Update</i></p>	<p>There have been numerous questions regarding re-opening. Guidance on resuming in-person services continues to recommend that EI services should be provided via telehealth to the greatest extent possible with health and safety a priority. The local health department has jurisdiction over re-opening within their region.</p> <p>Early Hearing Detection Intervention, EHDI, is part of BEI. Recently new staff have been hired: Program Coordinator Rubab Zahra-Hassan, Follow-up Coordinator James Wade, and Program Assistant Julia Tellerman.</p> <p>The EHDI program is working on some updates related to newborn hearing screening regulations to align them with statute changes from several years back, mainly around reporting requirements for providers in the field. Additionally, a two-tier in-patient screening requirement is under consideration, which will increase the likelihood of identifying suspected hearing loss as early as possible. In addition, an RFP to find a vendor to help support families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing was released. The responses to the RFP are due December 21. Lastly, the EHDI program is working with the OHIP Medicaid Managed Care Plans, which have an opportunity to help with follow up for babies who have not passed their newborn hearing screening and also to make sure that we don't have either lost follow up or lost the documentation.</p> <p>Open discussion topics included transition, assistive technology, and the accessibility to technology to families for EI services.</p>	
<p><i>Open Discussion</i></p> <p><b>Report of Task Force Activities</b> <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force including Competency- Based Training and Telehealth Update</i></p> <p><b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b> <i>Annual Performance Report</i></p>	<p>Linda Rennie, EICC Provider Member, EIO Nassau County provided an update on the Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force activities (see presentation). There are two subgroups: Telehealth and Training-Foundational Core Competencies.</p> <p>Regarding Telehealth, BEI disseminated sample surveys to Task Force members for review and comment due back to BEI by December 10, 2020. BEI will review and compile feedback to present to the Task Force at the January 2021 meeting.</p> <p>Regarding Training, BEI disseminated the Foundational Core Competencies to the Task Force members for review and comment due back to BEI by January 11, 2021. Comments and edits will be discussed at the February 2021 Task Force meeting.</p> <p>The Task Force will continue with monthly calls, alternating months to work on Telehealth and Training-Foundational Core Competencies.</p> <p>Ms. Rennie inquired if the EICC members had any additional comments or concerns regarding targeted restructure of cost neutral reform to address equity and capacity in underserved areas. Steve Held mentioned that there are old data sets that could be re-examined.</p> <p>Dr. Yan Wu, Part C Data Manager, presented Annual Performance Report Data for the FFY 2020 that will be submitted on February 1, 2021 to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), which is housed in the U.S. Department of Education (see presentation). Dr. Wu provided an overview of last year's data that was submitted to OSEP, the State Determination, and data on each of the nine indicators for this year and previous years, and the indicators' targets. There were discussions on all indicators presented. For the 2020 OSEP Determination, New York received 78.47% (Needs Assistance) whereas for 2019 New York received 90.97% (Meets Requirements). There were comments and discussions about the impact of COVID-19 on the Indicators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force update will be given at the March 23, 2021 meeting</li> </ul>

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	Steve Held made a motion to approve the APR as the Council’s annual report and Leah Ester Lax seconded. The APR was approved with eighteen (18) members in favor, no oppositions, and no abstentions. The motion to accept the APR as the EICC’s Legislative Report was approved.	
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	
<i>Health Homes Update</i>	<p>Colette Poulin provided an update on Health Homes (see presentation). The Children’s Waiver was launched on April 1, 2019. EI and HHSC teams have worked together and, in conjunction with stakeholders, to coordinate care management services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and the families for the past several years, which has included coordination of provider approval processes.</p> <p>BEI and HH teams collaborated to develop the following Guidance: Coordination of Children’s Health Home Care Management Services, Home and Community Based Services, and Early Intervention Services (May 2020) and Overview of Services to Utilize with Families (July 2020). The links for these Guidance documents is located on OHIP’s Health Homes webpage. Additional Guidance will be developed by HHSC and EI focused on helping families of infants and toddlers select the program that best suits their needs.</p> <p>Discontinuation of the Health Homes dually approved, coordinated model is under consideration, in part because of limited effectiveness related to the overall low numbers of provider enrollment and the inability for care management agencies and providers to sustain that model statewide. Approval of new providers for this model is on hold. Those who are serving as a dually approved provider will be able to maintain that service for the children they are serving for the time being.</p> <p>BEI will require all EI service coordination providers, including those who also provide HH care management, to complete the standard EI provider approval process and EI provider monitoring to ensure program integrity.</p> <p>Meghan Glass offered to provide materials and answer questions regarding OPWDD’s Health Homes program and the eligibility process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Health Homes will be given at the March 23, 2021 meeting</li> </ul>
<i>Special Guest</i>	Brad Hutton, former BEI Director and Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Public Health, was acknowledged and thanked for his work in EI.	
<i>EI-Hub Update</i>	<p>Jim Bryant, Project Manager, NYSTEC, and Rob Lillpopp, PCG, provided an update on the EI-Hub (see presentation). Ryan White provided an update on Organization Change Management and the aspects of communications and marketing.</p> <p>PCG EI-Hub Deputy Project Manager Paula VanMeter provided a demo of the EI-Hub Service Logging component.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the EI Hub will be given at the March 23, 2021 meeting</li> </ul>
<i>PCG (State Fiscal Agent) (SFA) Update</i>	Rob Lillpopp provided an update from PCG (see presentation). There has been a reduction in the amount of claims due to commercial denial and the percentages of claims that are coming in past the ninety-day timely filing limits has increased, both due to COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCG Update will be given at the March 23, 2021 meeting</li> </ul>
<i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i>	Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit Manager, presented an update on the Fiscal Agent Payment Data (see presentation). Topics discussed included child enrollment, provider capacity, timeliness of payments and insurance and Medicaid reimbursement. In 2020, the second quarter and most recent quarter have a reduction of about ten or eleven percent from a year ago. There were also less children enrolled in those two periods, which aligns with the time period for when the pandemic started.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the March 23, 2021 meeting</li> </ul>

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<b>Public Comment</b>	Public comments were submitted prior to the meeting and read aloud. Two comments were received: 1) Steven Sanders, Executive Director, ACTS and 2) Barbara Frank, Independent Service Provider, providing Special Instruction services in several rural counties in upstate NY.	
<b>Future Agenda Items</b>	Agenda items suggested by EICC members for future EICC meetings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Telehealth</li><li>• Health Homes</li><li>• Family directed assessments</li><li>• Budget proposals</li><li>• COVID-19</li></ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned by Talina Jones at 3:00 p.m.	