

## New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council Minutes – September 15, 2021

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																																
Welcome	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:</p> <table><tr><td>x</td><td>Lynn Amell</td><td>x</td><td>Lidiya Lednyak</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Jessica Benton</td><td>x</td><td>Melissa Puchalski</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner</td><td>x</td><td>Linda Rennie</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Heidi Bond</td><td>x</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Donna Bradbury</td><td>x</td><td>Lynn Shea</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Brigitte Desport - late</td><td>x</td><td>Robin Stegman</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Amy De Vito - late</td><td>x</td><td>Angella Timothy</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Meghan Glass</td><td>x</td><td>Elina Tsenter</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Steve Held</td><td>x</td><td>Antonia Weidner</td></tr><tr><td>x</td><td>Cheryl Hogan</td><td>x</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>Leah Esther Lax</td><td></td><td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td></tr></table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Peter Baran, Ann-Margret Foley, Mike Iorio, Kelli Lyndaker, Kenneth Moehringer, Katherine Reksc, William Sacks, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, Dawn Smith, and Yan Wu.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	x	Lynn Amell	x	Lidiya Lednyak		Jessica Benton	x	Melissa Puchalski		Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	x	Linda Rennie	x	Heidi Bond	x	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola	x	Donna Bradbury	x	Lynn Shea	x	Brigitte Desport - late	x	Robin Stegman	x	Amy De Vito - late	x	Angella Timothy	x	Meghan Glass	x	Elina Tsenter	x	Steve Held	x	Antonia Weidner	x	Cheryl Hogan	x	Marina Yoegel	x	Talina Jones	x	Kayleigh Zaloga - late	x	Leah Esther Lax		Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
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Welcome	<p>Talina Jones, EICC Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and thanked Council Members for attending the virtual Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) meeting.</p> <p>The next EICC full Council Meeting is Wednesday, December 14, 2021 from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next Executive Committee Meeting is Tuesday, October 26, 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next full Council meeting is December 14, 2021</li></ul>																																																
Approval of Minutes	<p>Talina Jones informed the Council that that the minutes from the June 16, 2021 meeting and the July 22, 2021 Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Lynn Shea and a second by Heidi Bond to approve the June 16, 2021 meeting minutes. Seventeen (17) members voted in favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The minutes from the June 16, 2021 meeting passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next Executive Committee meeting is October 26, 2021</li></ul>																																																

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<p><b>New Business</b> <i>EICC Membership Updates</i></p> <p><i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p>	<p>The following members resigned and were acknowledged for their years of service and contributions to the Council: Paola Jordan – 10 years of service on the EICC Karen Edwards – 6 years of service on the EICC</p> <p>Peter Baran provided the following Bureau Administrative updates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - The federal Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the NYS Education Department and the Bureau of Early Intervention / NYS Department of Health regarding the transition of children from Part C of IDEA to Part B and this MOU fulfills a requirement for the Part C federal grant applications.</li> <li>2) Updates to EI Service Coordination Tool Kit following collaboration with OPWDD – On Tuesday, September 7, 2021, BEI disseminated a revised guidance document which was developed in collaboration with OPWDD. This Tool Kit has been updated to include new terminology used by OPWDD and the revised method by which EIP service coordinators (SCs) must now notify the OPWDD Front Door Regional Office, of a child who is potentially eligible for supports and services through OPWDD, with parental consent. The revised Tool Kit also includes updated Frequently Asked Questions, which relate to the changes in policy and procedures for Service Coordinators regarding a notification to OPWDD.</li> <li>3) Health Homes – BEI and Health Homes Program continue to work closely together to shore up the process for agencies who are working with children eligible for both EIP and Health Homes programs and will have stakeholder meetings prior to any changes taking place.</li> <li>4) COVID-19 Guidance Clarification – All previous EI Guidance related to COVID-19 remains in effect until BEI releases updated Guidance.</li> <li>5) Covered Lives Motion (S5560/A5339) – The EICC motion in support of the Covered Lives bill was sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor/Governor's staff.</li> <li>6) Proposed 2022 Meeting Dates – The 2022 meeting dates are currently being scheduled. Due to timing, BEI was unable to move the first quarter meeting up any sooner than early March. BEI will send members a list of the potential meeting dates after today's meeting to review for conflicts.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the December 2021 meeting</li> <li>• BEI will send members a list of the potential meeting dates</li> </ul>
<p><i>Early Intervention Program Regulations Update</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>Peter Baran informed the Council that the recently updated regulations are currently under review by the Department's Division of Legal Affairs. Once their review is complete, the regulations will be posted to the State Register and there will be a public comment period.</p> <p>Steve Held proposed that as COVID continues, the EICC discuss the guidelines regarding mask wearing in developmental toddler groups in relation to delivering physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) per the IFSP. He stated that there is currently conflicting Guidance being disseminated from the Department, the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and the State Education Department (SED), which is confusing the service providers. Lidiya Lednyak informed the Council that NYC is following the CDC guidelines that masks are required whenever EI services are being delivered in person. Peter Baran said that Guidance regarding COVID will continue to be included on the EICC meeting agenda.</p>	
<p><b>Report of Task Force Activities</b> <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force including</i></p>	<p>Linda Rennie, EICC Provider Member, EIO Nassau County, and Marina Yoegel, EICC County Member, EIO Westchester County, provided an update on the Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force activities (see presentation). Ms. Rennie reviewed the original task force proposed charter, the two (2) recommendations of the Task Force from the first year, and the two (2) subgroups of Telehealth and Competency-Based Training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force updates will be given at the December 2021 meeting</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Competency-Based Training and Telehealth Update</i></p> <p><i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i></p> <p><i>EI Monitoring: Introduction of Keystone Peer Review Organization (KEPRO)</i></p>	<p>Telehealth – Both the family/caregiver survey and the provider survey are currently in DOH approval process before being sent out. A guidance document for telehealth will be drafted once the results of the surveys have been reviewed. The Rate Setting Methodology Task Force will now address targeted restructure-cost neutral reform and identifying zip codes within counties that are underserved.</p> <p>Competency-Based Training - On May 14, 2021, NYC and Westchester convened a joint Zoom meeting with their academic partners to initiate discussion on the development of the companion document to be drafted for review by the EICC December 2021 meeting. Discussion ensued about whether the competency document could be released without the companion document; BEI will check with the Department's leadership.</p> <p>The Task Force's next steps will be to continue with monthly calls, alternating months to continue their work on Telehealth and the Competencies; develop a guidance document based upon the feedback from the Telehealth surveys; NYC and Westchester will continue work with their academic partners to develop a draft Companion document to be shared at an upcoming EICC meeting; pursue an initiative to reach out to academic partners across the state.</p> <p>Steve Held, Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force (see presentation). The Task Force members, charter, and next steps were reviewed. Members were asked to review the charter prior to voting on approving it. Talina Jones recommended adding the word "ability" after the word "services" in the second sentence.</p> <p>A motion was made by Lidiya Lednyak and a second by Donna Bradbury to approve the charter with the addition of the word "ability. Nineteen (19) members voted in favor, none opposed, and one (1) abstained. The motion passed.</p> <p>Linda Stiles, Project Manager, KEPRO, provided an update on EI Monitoring (see presentation). She announced that Stacie Guild is the Monitoring Coordinator. The procedures and activities for EI monitoring were reviewed. The priority areas are as follows: child find, services in natural environments, transition. Discussions ensued regarding the indicators to ensure the quality of services being provided and Corrective Action Plans. KEPRO will address issues received by phone call and will share that information with the Department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BEI will check with the Department's leadership regarding releasing the Competency document without the companion document</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>	<p>12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b></p> <p><i>EI Race and Ethnicity Data Report</i></p> <p><i>EI-Hub Update PCG</i></p>	<p>Yan Wu, Data and Program Evaluation Unit, presented on the Early Intervention Race and Ethnicity Data Report (see presentation). The background, purpose, and data for the EI Race and Ethnicity Data Report were reviewed. The summary included data from July 2017 to June 2020. The future actions to be undertaken by the Department to address the results of the data review were outlined.</p> <p>A motion was made by Talina Jones and a second by Steve Held to approve sharing the summary report publicly after amending the report to change the blank graph. Nineteen (19) members voted in favor, none opposed, and none (0) abstained. The motion passed.</p> <p>Jim Bryant, Project Manager, NYSTEC, Katie Kirsch, Senior Consultant, NYSTEC, Rob Lillpopp, Project Manager, PCG, Ryan White, OCM Lead, PCG, Paula Van Meter, Deputy Project Manager and Bryan Funk, Project Analyst</p> <p>Rob Lillpopp, PCG provided an update on the EI Hub (see presentations). Jim Bryant announced that he will be transferring the NYSTEC management of the EI Hub project to Katie Kirsch. Rob Lillpopp thanked Jim Bryant for his work on the EI Hub project. The timeline of the project was discussed. PCG provided a demo of the EI Hub Case Management – 837P Loader and then explained the NYS EI Hub Companion Guides.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the December 2021 meeting</li> </ul>

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<p><i>PCG (State Fiscal Agent) (SFA) Update</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>Rob Lillpoppp, PCG, provided an update from the State Fiscal Agent. Authorizations are still the number one reason for denial. The trend of the denials is decreasing. The Medicaid Code 35 process, the Medicaid Sweep process, and the Remittance Entry Process were explained.</p> <p>Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit, presented on the fiscal agent payment data (see presentation). Topics discussed included child enrollment, provider capacity, timeliness of payments, and insurance and Medicaid reimbursement. Comparing Q2 2021 data to Q2 data 2020, child enrollment decreased, the number of providers decreased (which is more an indicator of services than actual providers available), and claim volume increased. Regarding timeliness of provider payment, 97% of claims were paid in full in 2021 Q2 and 90% of claims were paid within 33 days. Timely submission of claims by providers remains consistent with 90% of claims submitted within 54 days. The insurance reimbursement rate is consistent between 2020 Q2 and 2019 Q2. The claims volume billed to commercial insurance and also to Medicaid increased Q2 2021 from Q2 2020 and the reimbursement rate has improved from Q2 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update from PCG will be given at the December 2021 meeting</li> <li>• An update on the Fiscal Agent Payment Data will be given at the December 2021 meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comments were submitted prior to the meeting.	
<b>Future Agenda Items</b>	<p>Agenda items suggested by EICC members for future EICC meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth &amp; the teletherapy survey – further discussion on how teletherapy will be added to the EIP as a permanent option for delivery of EI services and related matters</li> <li>• Provider types in the Medicaid State Plan and whether the new mental health QP can do evaluations.</li> <li>• COVID-19</li> <li>• Health Homes</li> <li>• Family directed assessments</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:43 p.m.	