

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
Minutes – September 12, 2024**

Agenda Item	Discussion				Action Items
Welcome	The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:				
	X	Sherlita Amler	X	Lidiya Lednyak	
		Jessica Benton	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)	
		Heidi Bond	X	Emily Mondschein	
	X	Raymond Bowman	X	Noah Rohde	
	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	
		Joy Connolly		Robin Stegman	
		Cheryl Schaefer Coppola	X	Angella Timothy	
	X	Brigitte Desport (MARO)	X	Elina Tsenter	
	X	Amy DeVito	X	Marina Yoegel	
	X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
	X	Steve Held			
	X	Leah Esther Lax			
	Department of Health staff present: Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Rhorianne Foster, Diane Ginsburg, Mike Iorio, Ronni Jones, Tricia Kandefer, Kelli Lyndaker, Ken Moehringer, Travis O’Donnell, Raymond Pierce, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai, Ashley Tomlin, and Megan Tyrell. Guests: Stephanie Bugos- Measurement Inc., Nancy Hampton- NYS Council on Children and Families, Brad Hutton- Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services (ACTS) and Hutton Consulting, Scott Jill- New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, Whitney Loy- McCarton Foundation, Barbara Knudson-Chouffi- ACTS, Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs, and Jana Vitale- Children’s Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy Early Intervention Agency. Rob Lillpopp, Paul Ross, Paula VanMeter, and Lauren Zelinsky from Public Consulting Group. <i>All references to the Department refer to the New York State Department of Health, Bureau to the Bureau of Early Intervention, and Council to the Early Intervention Coordinating Council.</i>				
	Welcome	Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:25 am and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting.			
Approval of Minutes	The next full Council meeting will be Wednesday, December 11, 2024, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 29, 2024. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the June 13, 2024, meeting and the August 6, 2024, Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them. A motion was made by Marina Yoegel and a second by Amy DeVito to approve the June 13, 2024, meeting minutes. Fifteen (15) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The minutes from the June 13, 2024, meeting minutes passed.				
New Business <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i>	Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Announced new Council members Dr. Katie Heath and Emily Mondschein. Melissa Groth resigned.Karen Dwyer was promoted to Manager of Quality Improvement in the Bureau.Provided updates on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rate Adjustments for ProvidersCovered LivesTransportation Rate IncreaseEarly Intervention Regulations				• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the December 11, 2024, meeting.

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<p>New Business <i>Motions to send letters from the Council</i></p> <p><i>Vice-Chair Re-Vote</i></p> <p><i>2024-2025 Executive Committee and Task Forces</i></p> <p><i>Summary of the Telehealth Survey for Providers and Families</i></p> <p><i>Department of Health Commissioner</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to the New York State Department of Education: Request to clarify current licensure and conventional legal requirements to allow for Early Intervention to be integrated into curricula for Early Intervention disciplines. A motion to send the letter was made by Steve Held, and a second by Leah Esther Lax. 17 (seventeen) voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion passed. • Letter to the Governor: Calls for the release of the remaining funds owed to counties from the Covered Lives pool, establish a disbursement schedule for payments, and the release of Covered Lives funding for Early Intervention Services should not be considered discretionary. A motion to send the letter was made by Lidiya Lednyak, and a second by Steve Held. 14 (fourteen) voted in favor, none opposed, 3 abstentions. Motion passed. • Letter to the New York State Department of Health: Recommends that the Department utilize the methodology from the Rate Setting Methodology task force to implement the 4% rate increase to incentivize the delivery of in-person Early Intervention evaluations and services in underserved and rural communities across New York State. A motion to send the letter was made by Lidiya Lednyak, and a second by Steve Held. 17 (seventeen) voted in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Motion passed. <p>A re-vote for Vice-Chair was necessary as there was a tie at the last Council meeting.</p> <p>Committee members for 2024-2025 were announced.</p> <p>Dr. Shu-kuang Tai and Ronni Jones, Data and Program Evaluation Unit provided a Telehealth Surveys summary.</p> <p>Dr. James McDonald, MD, MPH- NYS Department of Health Commissioner, spoke to the Council.</p> <p>No comments.</p>	
<p>Report of Department Activities <i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>Ken Moehring, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit provided the Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the December 11, 2024, meeting.
<p>Lunch Break</p>	<p>12:05pm-12:35pm</p>	
<p>Report of Department Activities (continued) <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Update</i></p>	<p>Megan Tyrell, Perinatal Regionalization Unit Manager, Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Program, provided updates on the Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Hearing Detection and Intervention update will be provided at the December 11, 2024, meeting.

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Report of Task Force Activities <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update</i> <i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i>	<p>Marina Yoegel and Lidiya Lednyak, Task-Force Co-Chairs provided Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force including Competency- Based Training and Telehealth updates.</p> <p>Steve Held, Task Force Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force updates will be given at the December 11, 2024, meeting.
Report of Additional Department Activities <i>EI-Hub Update</i> <i>Public Consulting Group State Fiscal Agent Update</i>	<p>Rob Lillpopp, Paul Ross, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group provided an update on the EI Hub.</p> <p>Time did not allow for the State Fiscal Agent update. The PowerPoint is online with the other meeting materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the December 11, 2024, meeting. • A State Fiscal Update will be given at the December 11, 2024, meeting.
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Held asked if the Department would consider a training contract for telehealth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEI will consider request.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Ginsburg, Health Program Administrator for the Bureau, read a comment from Leonarda Parente-Wallace, Early Intervention Occupational Therapist for the State and NYC Department of Education regarding the new regulations. Jana Vitale, board member of the Association for Children's Therapy Services, expressed concerns about supplemental evaluations and the EI-Hub. 	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 3:51 p.m.	