

# New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council

## Minutes – June 13, 2024

Agenda Item	Discussion				Action Items
Welcome	The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:				
		Jessica Benton		Leah Esther Lax	
		Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	X	Lidiya Lednyak	
	X	Heidi Bond	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)	
	X	Raymond Bowman	X	Noah Rohde	
	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	
	X	Joy Connolly		Robin Stegman	
	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Angella Timothy	
		Brigitte Desport	X	Elina Tsenter	
	X	Amy DeVito	X	Marina Yoegel	
	X	Melissa Groth		Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
	X	Steve Held			
	X	Jordan Kase			
	<b>Department of Health staff present:</b> Mary Amendola, Douglas Arthur, Peter Baran, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Jennifer Ferrara, Diane Ginsburg, Mike Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Jaclyn Kingston, Kelli Lyndaker, Ken Moehringer, Travis O’Donnell, Raymond Pierce, Colette Poulin, Elizabeth Rialdi, Jennifer Sandshaw, Jessica Simmons, and Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai. <b>Guests:</b> 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, Barbara Knudson-Chouffi-ACTS, Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs, Megan Reyes-Wangh- Albany Medical Center, and Jana Vitale- Children’s Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy Early Intervention Agency. Rob Lillpopp, Matthew O’Brien, Paula VanMeter, and Lauren Zelinsky from Public Consulting Group. <i>All references to the <b>Department</b> refer to the New York State Department of Health, <b>Bureau</b> to the Bureau of Early Intervention, and <b>Council</b> to the Early Intervention Coordinating Council.</i>				
	Welcome	Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting.			
Approval of Minutes	The next full Council meeting will be Thursday, September 12, 2024, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, August 6, 2024. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the March 14, 2024, meeting and the April 30, 2024, Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.  A motion was made by Amy DeVito and a second by Heidi Bond to approve the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes. Sixteen (16) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The minutes from the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes passed.				
New Business Bureau Administrative Updates	Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Announced that Jessica Simmons, who has been in the Bureau for 14 years, was promoted to Manager of Information Systems and Quality Improvement, replacing Mike Iorio.</li><li>• <b>Executive Budget Proposals-</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Rate Increases-</b> An 11% rate increase for the Early Intervention Program was proposed for this year. We are receiving a 5% rate increase for in-person services. Effective 4/1/2025, we are receiving a 4% rate modifier for underserved communities and hard to reach rural areas of the state,</li></ul></li></ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the September 12, 2024, meeting.</li></ul>

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<b>New Business</b> <i>Bureau Administrative Updates (continued)</i>	<p>including in-person services. The Council’s Rate Setting Methodology Task Force is working on the methodology to identify underserved communities and rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Three Administrative Savings Proposals-</b> Reduce the telehealth rate to the facility rate, limit group services to six, and consecutive extended home visits on the same day for the same service are to be prohibited. There is no date for planning on implementing this yet.</li> <li>● <b>Covered Lives-</b> Counties owed \$10 million in covered lives payments. The Bureau asked the Division of Budget to allow payments to be processed, and to develop a reliable schedule for future payments.</li> <li>● <b>EI Hub-</b> The launch has been rescheduled to 10/15/2024. The last day to enter data in NYEIS will be 10/4/2024. An in-person training schedule across the state is being planned.</li> <li>● <b>Transition Guide-</b> The Bureau has been developing a Transition Guide, working with the New York State Education Department, from Early Intervention into Preschool Special Education with a part B program. Anticipated to be finished in 2025.</li> <li>● <b>School Psychologists-</b> They continue to be eligible to work in the Early Intervention Program until 4/1/2025.</li> <li>● <b>Group Services-</b> The Bureau is drafting guidance on billing for group developmental services, effective 9/1/2024, pursuant to Early Intervention regulations. The Bureau will send out information this summer.</li> <li>● <b>Medicaid Scorecard-</b> The Bureau is discussing details with the Division of Budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Bureau will send out group services billing information this summer.</li> </ul>
<i>Council Member Updates</i>	Ray Pierce introduced new Council members Shelbi McIlroy, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and the designee for the Assemblywoman and Noah Rohde, Senator John Mannion’s Legislative Director, who has been named the Senator’s designee, replacing Deanna Ewart.	
<i>Vice-Chair Vote</i>	Steve Held, Council Chair, announced that four Council members were nominated for Council Vice-Chair, and two accepted. Ballots are to be turned into Diane Ginsburg during break, then tallied.	
<i>2024-2025 Executive Committee and Task Forces</i>	Council members will be asked if they want to continue to serve on the Committees for 2024-25 via email. Any openings will be announced to members.	
<i>Open Discussion</i>	Steve Held, Council Chair, called for Open Discussion. Steve read a motion for EICC Recommendations for the Implementation of the Revised Regulations. To be voted upon after lunch break.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	Jana Vitale, board member of the Association for Children's Therapy Services expressed concerns about the administrative proposals. Diane Ginsburg, Bureau Health Program Administrator, read a comment submitted by the Kids Can't Wait Campaign with concerns that the rate increase may not be high enough to attract and retain providers, and about the long waitlist for Early Intervention services.	
<b>Report of Department Activities</b> <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program Update</i>  <i>Health Homes Update</i>	<p>Elizabeth Rialdi, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Program, provided updates on the Program.</p> <p>Colette Poulin, Health Program Director, Children’s Health Home, Division of Program Development and Management, provided a Health Homes update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program update will be provided at the September 12, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12:05pm-12:35pm	

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<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action Items</b>
<b>Report of Department Activities</b> <i>(continued)</i> <i>Bureau of Early Intervention Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan Update</i>	Jessica Simmons, Manager of Information Systems and Quality Improvement, provided a Bureau of Early Intervention Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan update.	
<b>Report of Task Force Activities</b> <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update</i>	Marina Yoegel and Lidiya Lednyak, Task-Force Co-Chairs provided Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force including Competency- Based Training and Telehealth updates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force updates will be given at the September 12, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i>	Steve Held, Task Force Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force.	
<i>Vote on Motion Made During Open Discussion</i>	Thirteen (13) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and three (3) abstained. The motion made during the Open Discussion passed.	
<b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b> <i>EI-Hub Update</i>	Rob Lillpopp, Matthew O’Brien, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group provided an update on the EI Hub.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the September 12, 2024, meeting.</li> <li>• A State Fiscal Update will be given at the September 12, 2024, meeting.</li> <li>• A Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the September 12, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<i>Public Consulting Group State Fiscal Agent Update</i>	Rob Lillpopp and Paula Van Meter from the Public Consulting Group provided the State Fiscal Agent update.	
<i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i>	Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit provided the Fiscal Agent Payment Data and Transportation Update.	
<b>Future Agenda Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Acquario, or other representative from the New York State Association of Counties, speak on the counties’ role in Early Intervention.</li> <li>• Have a presentation by an expert in on the delivery of telehealth, preferably Early Intervention services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact the Association about speaking at a future. meeting.</li> <li>• Seek a telehealth expert to present at a future meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 3:00 p.m.	