



Department  
of Health

# EICC Rate Setting Methodology Task Force

EICC Meeting March 9, 2023

**Steve Held, Chair**

# Immediate Increase

- The Rate Setting Methodology Task Force advocates for an immediate 11% increase.
- The increase only applies to all in-person Early Intervention services.
- The Task Force unanimously voted **not** to increase teletherapy rates.

# Scheduled NECTAC Call

- Ken, Jessica, and Steve will be making a call to NECTAC on March 8, 2023.
- The call aims to gain insight into rate-setting methodologies in other states.



# Hard-to-Reach Communities

- Recommend that BEI build a rate modifier to improve service access for hard-to-reach communities
- Applicable to in-person service only
- The modifier will be a 20% rate differential to be decided upon at each IFSP based on the discussion of the IFSP team and authorized by the municipal EIO based on a set of factors or considerations
- Recommend that BEI partners with the Rate Set Taskforce to identify factors to guide municipalities on a consistent approach

# Hard-to-Reach Communities

- Rate modifier factors include:
  - The need for a companion to accompany a therapist or the need for therapists to go into the home as a team.
  - Percentage of the population of within the child's zip codes of residence living below the Federal poverty level (i.e., 20% of zip below FPL).
  - Difficulty finding service provider due to bilingual service need
  - Need for a therapist to travel in excess of a 20-mile radius (the Federal allowable mileage rate adjusted each year)

# Hard-to-Reach Communities

- BEI should fund “Companions” for hard-to-reach communities with “add-ons” approved by municipal representatives on a case-by-case determination.
- A possible equity add-onto each in-person therapy will be at the discretion of the representative of the EIO.
- There should be a 20% differential for in-person services delivered within zip codes where the general population lives below the Federal poverty level.
- The determination will be based on each individual IFSP and the decision made by the municipality’s EIO or designee.

# Internal Rate Study

- The Taskforce recommends that the BEI endeavor to gather real-time data to assist the Taskforce in our efforts to recommend changes to our rate methodology.
- The current rates were developed on data gathered from the old “Family Court” system. This methodology was built before 1991.

# Family Cancellations

- Recommendation that the teletherapy guidance document include the following consideration for service cancelation:
  - If a family cancels (3) consecutive in-person services, the infant/toddler's IFSP will toggle to teletherapy services.
  - The Ongoing service coordinator will discuss the appropriate time to resume in-person interventions.



# 16 Regional rates paired down to 3

- Three regional rates will be developed for the entire state.
- 1 NYC
- 2 Long Island/Westchester
- 3. ROS