



Department
of Health

Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update

EICC Meeting

September 14, 2023

Marina Yoegel, Task Force Chair

Lidiya Lednyak, Task Force Co-Chair

Task Force Members

- **Co-Chairperson:** Marina Yoegel
- **Co-Chairperson:** Lidiya Lednyak
- **Parent:** Amy DeVito
- **Parent:** Leah Esther Lax
- **Personnel Prep or Training:** Brigitte Desport
- **Provider Rep:** Steve Held
- **Provider Rep:** Robin Stegman
- **Muni Rep:** Heidi Bond
- **Discretionary:** Lynn Shea
- **State Agency:** Elina Tsenter
- **State Agency:** Patricia Zuber-Wilson
- **DOH Staff:** Raymond Pierce, Peter Baran, Yan Wu, Diane Ginsburg, and Jennifer Sandshaw
- **Advisor:** Roxana Inscho

Original Task Force Proposed Charter

Charge: To develop recommendations for the Department to increase provider workforce capacity to deliver EI services to eligible children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. The objective is to improve timeliness of EI service delivery for children and families participating in the Early Intervention Program.

Committee Overview

- The State Early Intervention Coordinating Council Workforce Capacity Task Force (WFCTF) is committed to supporting the New York State Bureau of Early Intervention (NYS BEI) in its goal of building capacity in the EI workforce. To date, the WFCT has worked to support NYS BEI to:
 - Reduce the number of clock hours required to become an approved provider from 1600 hours to 1000 hours
 - Establish competencies for academic preparation programs to utilize in developing coursework and specialization in early childhood and early intervention.
 - Develop and finalize a companion document to support institutions of higher education to integrate the competencies into course work.
 - Develop and finalize surveys for caregivers and providers regarding the use of telehealth in NYS
 - Provide feedback on the NYS BEI Telehealth Guidance Document
 - Inform the development of a webpage regarding the NYS BEI Early Intervention Competency Areas

Task Force Update

➤ Telehealth surveys

- In June 2023 the WFCTF updated the Parent telehealth survey and the Provider telehealth survey and sent to BEI for final review, approval and dissemination
- Surveys expected to be administered online through Survey Monkey and via hard copy
- Telehealth surveys expected to be released by the end of 2023

Task Force Update

- Companion Document for the NYS Competency Areas for the Delivery of Early Intervention Services in NYS
 - WFCTF finalized and integrated all BEI feedback on Companion Document
 - Companion document posted on NYS DOH BEI Webpage!
- Competencies webpage
 - Competency Areas page was created on the NYS DOH BEI landing page
 - Final content recommended by WFCT- in the NYS DOH review process
- WFCTF recommended that NYS BEI send an email announcement once the website content is finalized about the Competency webpage and the release of the Companion Document

Task Force Update

- Presentation by Kelli Lyndaker, Provider Approval, Due Process, and Monitoring Unit on the SDOH Independent provider approval process
 - WFCTF currently considering and formulating recommendations to enhance the provider approval with the goal of:
 - Having course work hours associated with the Competency Areas for the Delivery of Evidence-Based Evaluations and Services in the New York State Early Intervention Program when obtained in combination with clinical fieldwork placements in birth to five settings counted towards the 1600/1000 clock hour requirement when it is submitted by graduates as part of their NYS BEI individual provider applications.
- Presentation by Kids Can't Wait at the September 2023 WFCTF
 - Presentation on the use of Speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs) in Early Intervention and in NYS to address workforce shortages

Task Force Update: CUNY Academic Reach Partner Background

- As part of the academic partners' review of the companion document, additional recommendations were made about addressing EI workforce capacity.
 - Current NYSED Office of the Higher Education and NYSED Office of Professions regulations - standard curricula in ECSE, OT, PT, and SLP academic programs in IHE do not require students to learn about EI core competencies or engage in clinical experiences with infants/toddlers and their families in EI, despite educational policies' recognition of the need for core competencies of personnel working in EI across disciplines.
 - There continues to be a lack of college-level EI course content (e.g., evidence-based, family-centered practice, authentic assessment, and reflective practice), and clinical experiences devoted to EI and the birth to three population
 - Internships in home and community settings do not typically occur and/or are not counted toward students' licensure or certification– which are counter to building quality workforce capacity for EI.
 - This is having a negative impact building workforce capacity efforts

Task Force Update: CUNY Academic Research Partner

- In order to examine and act upon the recommendations made by the academic partners to address structural issues in NYS impacting EI workforce capacity, the NYC Early Childhood Research Network was engaged and funded a research project to review Clinical Practice Acts across disciplines and make recommendations about gaps in fieldwork placements and identify opportunities for inclusion of the competencies.
- Specific Research Tasks
 - Conduct an examination, research, and analyses of the rules, regulations, and requirements governing pre-service preparation in:
 - NYSED Office of Higher Education for certification in Early Childhood Special Education
 - NYSED Office of the Professions for licensures in OT, PT, and SLP
 - Submit report to NYSDOH BEI through the SEICC Workforce Capacity Taskforce with recommendations for the regulations for certification or licensure in the 4 disciplines:
 - Identification of the current regulations that should be updated
 - Recommended language to update the regulations to correlate with the five EI competencies and evidence-based telehealth and family-centered best practices
 - Recommended inclusion of fieldwork placements with infants and toddlers (birth to three) and families in EI settings (e.g., home, community, and bilingual)

Task Force Updates

- CUNY Academic Reach Team
 - Joined or submitted progress reports to the WFCTF
 - Represented interim finding and recommendations at the September 5, 2023, WFCTF meeting
 - Professional National/NYSED Standards and Requirements
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
 - Occupational Therapy (OT)
 - Physical Therapy (PT)
 - Speech Language Pathology (SLP)
 - Recommendations to New York State Department of Health
 - Recommendations for Telehealth - *final report
 - National EI Provider Survey Brief Review - *final report
 - Final report to be delivered to Workforce Capacity Taskforce in October 2023
 - Presentation to SEICC anticipated on December 14, 2023.

Next Steps

- Provide feedback to academic research partner report
- Finalize recommendations to enhance the individual provider approval process
- Consider recommendations to NYS BEI re: SLPAs
- Review and make recommendations to the 2006 Co-visit guidance document to address collaboration to support transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams.

- Waiting for final BEI approval - Content for Competencies web page
- Awaiting BEI Release of Updated Telehealth Surveys
- Awaiting SDOH review and feedback on Teletherapy Guidance Document
- Awaiting release of revised rulemaking implementing the reduction of the 1600- hour to 1000-hour requirement

Questions

