

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – December 14, 2023**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																												
<b>Welcome</b>	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Lynn Amell (Rochester)</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Deanna Ewart</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Sherlita Amler</td> <td></td> <td>Melissa Groth</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Jessica Benton</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Steve Held</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Leah Esther Lax</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Heidi Bond</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Lidiya Lednyak</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Raymond Bowman</td> <td></td> <td>Lynn Shea</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Bonnie Catlin</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Robin Stegman (New York City)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Joy Connolly</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Angella Timothy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Elina Tsenter</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Brigitte Desport</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Marina Yoegel</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Amy DeVito</td> <td></td> <td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td> </tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Emily DeLorenzo, Karen Dwyer, Diane Ginsburg, Mike Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Kelli Lyndaker, Travis O'Donnell, Raymond Pierce, Elizabeth Rialdi, William Sacks, Jennifer Sandshaw, Jessica Simmons, and Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai.</p> <p>Guests: Nancy Hampton- NYS Council on Children and Families, Scott Jill- New York Technology Enterprise Corporation, 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.</p> <p><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></p>	X	Lynn Amell (Rochester)	X	Deanna Ewart	X	Sherlita Amler		Melissa Groth		Jessica Benton	X	Steve Held		Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	X	Leah Esther Lax		Heidi Bond	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Raymond Bowman		Lynn Shea		Bonnie Catlin	X	Robin Stegman (New York City)		Joy Connolly	X	Angella Timothy	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Elina Tsenter	X	Brigitte Desport	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Amy DeVito		Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
X	Lynn Amell (Rochester)	X	Deanna Ewart																																											
X	Sherlita Amler		Melissa Groth																																											
	Jessica Benton	X	Steve Held																																											
	Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	X	Leah Esther Lax																																											
	Heidi Bond	X	Lidiya Lednyak																																											
X	Raymond Bowman		Lynn Shea																																											
	Bonnie Catlin	X	Robin Stegman (New York City)																																											
	Joy Connolly	X	Angella Timothy																																											
X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Elina Tsenter																																											
X	Brigitte Desport	X	Marina Yoegel																																											
X	Amy DeVito		Patricia Zuber-Wilson																																											
<b>Welcome</b>  <b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting.</p> <p>The next full Council meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 30, 2024.</p> <p>Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting and the October 24, 2023, Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Brigitte Desport and a second by Marina Yoegel to approve the September 14, 2023, meeting minutes. Thirteen (13) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The minutes from the September 14, 2023, meeting passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next full Council meeting will be March 14, 2024.</li> <li>• The next Executive Committee meeting will be January 30, 2024.</li> </ul>																																												

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – December 14, 2023**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<p><b>New Business</b> <i>EICC Member Updates</i></p> <p><i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Council Bylaws Review</i></p>	<p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, introduced new Council members, Dr. Sherlita Amler, the Commissioner of Health for Westchester County, and Deanna Ewart, the Chief of Staff for New York State Senator John Mannion. Announced that Yan Wu, one of the Associate Directors of the Bureau of Early Intervention, has taken a promotional opportunity to work at the Council for Children and Families as the Data and Evaluation manager.</p> <p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public comment period ended 11/27/2023. After the Department of Health internal review is complete, the notice of adoption of the regulations will be submitted to the Department of the State. The Bureau is starting to discuss a timeline and plan for implementation of the regulations with the New York State Association of County Health Officials and the counties.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New Fiscal Audit Vendor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wei Wei &amp; Co. was awarded a multi-year contract to conduct a thorough review of claims submitted for payment by Early Intervention providers throughout New York State.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Covered Lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Department of Health is advocating that the almost 20 million for the state share of the Covered Lives assessment for 2022 and 2023 be reinvested in the Early Intervention Program.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 11% Rate Increase for Early Intervention Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Council requested an 11% rate increase and was supported by the Department of Health. The request was submitted to the executive chamber.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Early Intervention Provider Payments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Bureau has been in discussions with the Public Consulting Group, the Bureau fiscal intermediary, about developing a plan for making provider payments that will help address capacity and timeliness of service issues across our state.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Student Loan Repayment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Bureau is researching ways for student loan repayment to be possible, and develop a strategy for bringing speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists into hard-to-serve areas of state where we have provider shortages.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Telehealth Guidance Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On 12/13/2023, the approved telehealth guidance was sent out via the Bureau listserv. Information included frequently asked questions and the telehealth consent form.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Bureau Review of Billing for Service Coordination Activities and the Early Intervention Program 2013 Guidance Document</li> <li>• Early Intervention Campaign for Families</li> </ul> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair- A motion will be made after break to send a letter to the New York State Department of Health Commissioner requesting the remainder of funding from Covered Lives be released to municipalities.</p> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called for the Council to review the Bylaws. No recommendations for changes were made.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the March 14, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – December 14, 2023**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<b>Report of Department Activities</b> <i>Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan</i>	Dr. Shu-kuang Tai- Data and Program Evaluation Unit, Jessica Simmons- Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan/Outcomes Unit, and Kelli Lyndaker- Provider Approval and Due Process Unit provided the Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan. A motion was made by Leah Esther Lax and a second by Elina Tsenter to approve the Report. Fourteen (14) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The approval of the Report passed.	
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12:20pm-1:45pm	
<b>Report of Department Activities (continued)</b> <i>Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Program Update</i>	Elizabeth Rialdi, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Program, provided updates on the Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program update will be provided at the March 14, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>New Business (continued)</b> <i>Covered Lives Payment Letter</i>	Steve Held, Council Chair, read a letter he drafted on behalf of the Council addressed to the Department of Health Commissioner and copying Governor Hochul and the New York State Budget Director. It called for the immediate release of the Covered Lives fund, establishing a disbursement schedule for Fiscal Year 2024-2027, and a mechanism other than county escrow account to remit payments to municipalities. Steve Held motioned to send the letter and a second by Dr. Sherlita Amler. Fourteen (14) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The approval of sending the letter passed.	
<b>Report of Task Force Activities</b> <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update</i>  <i>Rate Setting Methodology 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.  Steve Held, Task Force Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force updates will be given at the March 14, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>New Business (continued)</b> <i>Chairperson’s Healthcare Workforce Testimony</i>	Copies of Steve Held’s healthcare workforce testimony were distributed to the Council. Steve Held made a motion to mail the testimony to healthcare workforce before the December 19, 2023, symposium at Hunter College and a second by Lidiya Lednyak. Fourteen (14) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The approval of sending the letter passed.	
<b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b> <i>EI-Hub Update</i>  <i>Public Consulting Group State Fiscal Agent Update</i>	Rob Lillpopp, Paul Ross, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group provided an update on the EI Hub.  Paula Van Meter from the Public Consulting Group provided a State Fiscal Agent update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the March 14, 2024, meeting.</li> <li>• A State Fiscal Update will be given at the March 14, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Agenda Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on the final provisions of the regulations and implementation.</li> <li>• Presentation of research done by the Academic Partners.</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Comment</b>	No comments received.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:36 p.m.	