



**Department  
of Health**

# **Early Intervention Coordinating Council Rate Setting Methodology Task Force**

**Steve Held, Task Force Chair**

# Task Force Members

- Task Force Chair: Steve Held
- Parents: Amy De Vito and Leah Esther Lax
- Provider: Brigitte Desport
- Discretionary: Lidiya Lednyak
- Municipal Reps: Marina Yoegel, Heidi Bond
- State Agency: Bonnie Catlin (Office of Mental Health)
  
- Department Of Health Staff: Raymond Pierce, Peter Baran, Diane Ginsburg, and Jennifer Sandshaw

# Early Intervention Coordinating Council Rate Setting Taskforce Update

- The Council recommended an 11% rate increase for in-person services.
- Ensuring rate methodologies consider travel, no shows, and cost of living.
- Reducing the number of regional rates.
- Putting an equity lens on the rates:
  - Reviewing enrollment and timelines of services across the state based on zip code
  - Pinpointing zip codes with higher poverty rates and longer waits for services
  - Proposing a rate modifier for these zip codes to improve timeliness

# Steps to Take for Bringing Rates to 2023 Levels

- Early Intervention does not align with 3-21 programs in all areas. In 3-21 programs, 210 care days are required. (180 days, Sept. - June and a 30-day summer program). In Early Intervention we look at 12 months a year or 250 days.
- There may need to be a realistic no-show calculation based on in-person. While we have requested that the Commissioner support an 11% rate increase for in-person rates, this group is looking at the complete methodology, not just applying a cost-of-living adjustment to current rates.

# Hard-to-Reach Communities

- The Department has shared zip code data statewide. The effort they put in was nothing short of spectacular. This data will facilitate recommendations for modifiers to establish fee-for-service rates that will attempt to make sure that every family and child will have equal access to our Early Intervention program.

# Zip Codes – What do They Tell Us:

- How long does it take to start a child's Individualized Family Service Plan? The children get referred, now what? Are the children starting services after 45 days, 100 days, or never? How will teletherapy fill this need?
- We are starting to realize the impact of demographic characteristics based on the Departments' data mining.

# Source Data

- Hard to reach areas which are either far apart by long travel miles or travel time due to congestion must be considered within the methodology.
- In a large city it may take the same hour to travel 10 blocks as in rural New York, where traveling 60 miles is required. We have to calculate a formula for this modifier.
- There is a cost to park in urban areas and excess mileage on a vehicle to travel miles in rural areas of our state.
- It might be easier to make a recommendation of a modifier based on the federal standard, but does it satisfy all of the tensions we are finding for that time?

# Telehealth Concerns and Follow Up

- We plan on meeting about the telehealth concerns and the follow up. We had a great discussion.



# Future Discussions For Task Force

- Review Components of Our Current Rates
- Developmental Toddler Groups

# Discussion and Questions?