

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – March 3, 2022**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																																
<p><b>Welcome</b></p>	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="420 251 1701 625"> <tr><td>-</td><td>Lynn Amell</td><td>X</td><td>Lidiya Lednyak</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Jessica Benton</td><td>-</td><td>Melissa Groth</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner</td><td>X</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola - late</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Heidi Bond</td><td>X</td><td>Lynn Shea</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Donna Bradbury - late</td><td>X</td><td>Robin Stegman</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Brigitte Desport</td><td>-</td><td>Angella Timothy</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Amy De Vito - late</td><td>X</td><td>Elina Tsenter - late</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Raymond Bowman</td><td>X</td><td>Antonia Weidner</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Steve Held</td><td>X</td><td>Marina Yoegel</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Cheryl Hogan</td><td>X</td><td>Kayleigh Zaloga</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Talina Jones</td><td>-</td><td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Leah Esther Lax</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Zahra Ala ali, Peter Baran, Mike Iorio, Kelli Lyndaker, Kenneth Moehringer, Ray Pierce, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, Dawn Smith, and Yan Wu.</p> <p><i>All references to the <b>Department</b> refer to the New York State Department of Health, <b>BEI</b> to the Bureau of Early Intervention, and <b>EI</b> to the Early Intervention Program.</i></p>	-	Lynn Amell	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Jessica Benton	-	Melissa Groth	X	Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola - late	X	Heidi Bond	X	Lynn Shea	X	Donna Bradbury - late	X	Robin Stegman	X	Brigitte Desport	-	Angella Timothy	X	Amy De Vito - late	X	Elina Tsenter - late	-	Raymond Bowman	X	Antonia Weidner	X	Steve Held	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Cheryl Hogan	X	Kayleigh Zaloga	-	Talina Jones	-	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	-	Leah Esther Lax			
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<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Steve Held, EICC Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and thanked Council Members for attending the virtual Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) meeting.</p> <p>The next EICC full Council Meeting will be Thursday, June 16, 2022, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, April 26, 2022.</p> <p>Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the December 14, 2021, meeting and the January 11, 2022, Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>The vote on the approval of the December 14, 2021, meeting minutes was delayed until there were enough Members present for a quorum.</p> <p>Dawn Smith announced that there were two typographical errors in the December 14, 2021, meeting minutes. The January Executive Committee meeting was listed as being in 2021 instead of 2022 and today's full Council meeting was also listed as being in 2021 instead of 2022.</p> <p>A motion was made by Heidi Bond and a second by Marina Yoegel to approve the December 14, 2021, meeting minutes. Fourteen (14) members voted in-favor, and none opposed. The minutes from the December 14, 2021, meeting passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next full Council meeting will be June 16, 2022</li> <li>• The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 26, 2022</li> </ul>																																																

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<p><b>New Business</b> <i>Vice Chair Nominations</i></p>	<p>Steve Held informed the Members that because this meeting is being held virtually, they should email Dawn Smith with a cc: to Jennifer Sandshaw with their nomination. All members who receive a nomination will be contacted by the Department to determine their interest in accepting the nomination. The names of those who accept the nomination will be on the election ballot at the June meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice Chair voting will take place at the June 2022 Meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p>	<p>Ray Pierce provided the following Bureau Administrative updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief overview of administrative changes in the proposed budget – there were no specific Early Intervention proposals in the proposed budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The Senate and House budgets are estimated to be released March 11 and may include some EI proposals</li> <li>B. There was a restoration in rates, but EI rates are not included in the restoration of the 1.5% across the board Medicaid rate cut because they were not included in the original across the board cut.</li> <li>C. The 1.5% budget guidance did not include EI, but the rates may be included in the 1% in general Medicaid increase. That 1% increase is subject to the Executive budget proposal being enacted and a Medicaid approval by CMS.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Governor signed the Covered Lives Legislation on December 29, 2021, with an effective date of January 1, 2022, and that removed the requirement that the provider claims for EI services be submitted to commercial insurance for children with insurance coverage. PCG has put notices on EI Billing about how claims with a date of service on or after January 1, 2022, will be processed and paid. PCG is currently updating EI Billing to implement the legislation so that claims will no longer be billed to commercial insurance. These changes are anticipated to be made March 31.</li> <li>• An update regarding Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. The Department released Guidance on January 27, 2022, to help reduce barriers in obtaining informed parental or guardian consent for EIS. It provides guidelines for the collection and use of electronic signatures from parents or guardians to indicate parental consent.</li> <li>B. The Department is reviewing the current makeup policy and updating the Guidance regarding makeup visits. An announcement will be sent via the BEI Listserv once the Guidance is finalized.</li> <li>C. The Governor lifted the State Mask Requirement on March 2. The Department is reviewing the current Guidance regarding the use of masks in EIP during delivery of in-person services.</li> <li>D. The Department is reviewing the Guidance regarding the practice of providers bringing toys and other materials in their homes and community-based settings during service delivery.</li> <li>E. The Department is reviewing the Guidance regarding the current standards for group size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent recruitment efforts for two (2) vacant seats on the EICC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Parent of a child who is six years old or younger with a developmental delay or disability</li> <li>B. Discretionary seat – to increase parent participation, the Council will be using this vacant seat to appoint an additional parent to the Council.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• EI-Hub update – The launch date for the implementation is being pushed out to the near future with a date TBD. The Department will continually reassess where it is at with the project to determine the launch date. The Department has received feedback that the community is not ready for a May 2022 launch date. More in-depth trainings on the EI-Hub will be provided to prepare stakeholders so that they can feel comfortable with the new system and prepared for its implementation.</li> <li>• EHDI Update- Zahra Alaali, Program Coordinator, provided an update on the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EDHI) program. EDHI Guidance is publicly available on the Department’s website. The Guidance serves as a tool to improve the outreach to families with newborns with confirmed or suspected hearing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the June 2022 meeting</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>impairments. It also facilitates connecting the infants and their families to timely EI services. The Guidance outlines the process and key aspects of the program.</p> <p>On behalf of the Members, Steve Held thanked Katie Reks for her work supporting the EICC and welcomed Dawn Smith to her new role with the Council.</p> <p>Heidi Bond thanked BEI for listening to the municipalities, providers, and the EI community when they expressed the concern that they weren't ready for the May EI-Hub launch date.</p> <p>Lidiya Lednyak expressed appreciation for BEI Director Ray Pierce and his team for thinking deliberately on the EI-Hub implementation date. As the largest municipality, NYC wants to ensure that they can transition appropriately. She applauded the delay of the EI-Hub implementation and asked the Department to consider a launch date after August 30.</p>	
<p><b>Report of Task Force Activities</b> <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force including Competency-Based Training and Telehealth Update</i></p> <p><i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i></p> <p><b>National Fragile X Foundation Presentation</b></p>	<p>Marina Yoegel, EICC County Member, EIO Westchester County, provided an update on the Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force activities.</p> <p>Competency-Based Training – On January 31, 2022, BEI officially released the proposed <i>Competency Areas for the Delivery of Evidenced-Based Evaluations and Services in the New York State Early Intervention Program</i>, and the document is now posted on the BEI website. The draft <i>Companion Document for the Competency Areas for the Delivery of the Evidenced-Based Evaluations and Services in NYS Early Intervention Program</i> was submitted to BEI for review with plans to formally disseminate it to the task force's academic partners statewide for their review and feedback to ensure that the document meets standards for the development of academic coursework.</p> <p>Telehealth – Currently there are no updates on the telehealth surveys. The Task Force would like clarification of its charge because it was amended by the EICC to address telehealth in the EIP. From a municipal perspective, there are concerns that evaluations are being completed via telehealth that are not up to the same quality as evaluations that are conducted in-person and that impacts the eligibility determinations for the program. There was also discussion regarding the need for Guidance on the use of telehealth.</p> <p>A motion was made by Lidiya Lednyak and a second by Steve Held that the SEICC resolves that by June SEICC meeting, BEI distributes clinical Guidance on the effective delivery of teletherapy in the EIP. Fourteen (14) members voted in favor and one (1) member abstained. The motion passes.</p> <p>Steve Held, Vice Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force (see presentation). The topics the Task Force is looking to address are whether the rates must be cost neutral and whether rate add-ons can be used to address areas of the state where children are statistically underserved. To begin this equity-based analysis, Ken Moehring presented the components of the rate system and the data set utilized in its initial development. The rates are posted on the DOH website. At the next meeting Task Force meeting Donna Bradbury will be presenting on how rate add-ons are determined in the Office of Mental Health (OMH). The Task Force is considering two (2) data requests: 1) zip codes that might identify a lack of sufficient service availability and 2) the percentage of very specific hours that an approved provider designates to the EIP program.</p> <p>Robert Miller and Amie Milunovich presented on the Fragile X Syndrome (FXS), which is an inherited chromosomal disorder, and other related disorders and conditions (see presentation). The National Fragile X Foundation's goal is to increase the diagnosis and the participation of historically underserved populations at their specialty clinics and in a CDC-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force updates will be given at the June 2022 meeting</li> </ul>

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	funded longitudinal research project called “Forward.” Email contact@fragilex.org for more information. To locate a clinic, visit <a href="https://fragilex.org/our-research/fragile-x-clinics/">https://fragilex.org/our-research/fragile-x-clinics/</a>	
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12:05 p.m. to 12:30p.m.	
<p><b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b></p> <p><i>EI-Hub</i></p> <p><i>PCG(State Fiscal Agent)(SFA) Update</i></p>	<p>Ryan White, PCG, provided an update on the EI-Hub (see presentation). Topics included: 1) Current Status Update 2) Testing and Training Update 3) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 4) Key Impacts and 5) How to Stay informed/ Get Involved.</p> <p>1) Current Status: The launch date for the project has been moved to “TBA” at this point due to stakeholder feedback. The change of date will allow for more time for a additional training and providing a additional training resources and other resources to stakeholders. The EI-Hub will continue to be updated a fter the launch date based on user feedback.</p> <p>2) Testing update: Component Testing is complete. Data Migration Testing is in progress. End to End User Acceptance Testing and Provider Claims Loader Testing are forthcoming.</p> <p>Training update: The Learning Management System (LMS) provides a single location for on-boarding, training, and resources for the EI-Hub. Currently occurring are Transition Communications such as the Hub Club newsletters, bi-weekly transition update, live session demonstrations, and transition webinars. Stakeholders can self-register in the LMS to get information and resources. There will be a Phase 2 component to the LMS that will provide targeted training materials based on user roles.</p> <p>3) FAQ: Two (2) FAQs were discussed:</p> <p>a) FAQ - User Roles. There will be a live session demonstration of User Roles on March 16, 2022. The User Role Crosswalk and User Role Guide will be coming soon.</p> <p>b) FAQ - Transition Period: The <i>EI-Hub Transition Webinar Series</i> provides information about the transition from NYSEIS to the EI-Hub. There will be a three (3) week period where BEI will transition the collection of child and claiming information from NYSIS to EI-Hub. During that time there will be periods where NYEIS, EI-Billing and LMS will be a vailable and other periods where they will be una vailable to complete the transition.</p> <p>4) Key Impacts: Five (5) Key Impacts were discussed:</p> <p>a) NYEIS Data Migration: Provider and child information will be migrated from NYEIS to the EI-Hub, but not the attachments.</p> <p>b) Provider Billing: Prior to NYEIS transitioning to read-only status, system users are encouraged to ensure applicable services are entered.</p> <p>c) Provider Re-Approvals and Amendments: Once the EI-Hub launches, providers will be able to submit their re-approval and amendment requests directly through the EI-Hub. In preparation for the transition to the EI-Hub, the BEI Provider Approval Unit (PAU) will stop accepting re-approval applications and amendment requests several weeks prior to the EI-Hub launch.</p> <p>d) HCS Account: All EI-Hub users will need to have an HCS account.</p> <p>e) Families: Families should not experience a disruption or delay in services because of the transition to EI-Hub.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the June 2022 meeting</li> </ul>

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<p><i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>5) How to Stay Informed / Get Involved: Review the Reference Page in the presentation for a complete list of links that were shared. To sign-up for the NYEIS Listserv to receive up-to-date information and actions required to prepare for the transition to the EI-Hub visit:  <a href="https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/mailing_list.htm">https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/mailing_list.htm</a>            To get involved in system testing visit: <a href="https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5402300/Engaged-Stakeholders">https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5402300/Engaged-Stakeholders</a></p> <p>A Q&amp;A session was conducted. Some of the topics included in the discussion session included were about training courses and tests, the Crosswalk User Role and Guide resource, billing rate codes, plans for errors that occur such as billing errors and the amount of time for municipalities to complete the download of necessary files in NYEIS.</p> <p>The billing rate codes are remaining the same as they are for NYEIS except for the addition of codes for transportation and respite.</p> <p>Rob Lillpopp, PCG, provided an update from the State Fiscal Agent (see presentation). On December 29, 2021, Governor Hochul signed legislation (A.5339/S.5560A – Covered Lives Bill) that significantly changes the way claims for Early Intervention services will be processed and paid. EIP claims will no longer be billed to commercial insurance. If the child has a commercial insurance policy where Medicaid is the secondary insurance, Medicaid will not be billed. PCG posted the implementation timeline for the billing changes on the EI Billing website, <a href="https://www.eibilling.com">https://www.eibilling.com</a>. The SFA billing and claiming statistics, commercial insurance denial rates, open claims in the EI Billing system, claims sent to insurance with no response greater than 60 days from the bill date, the top 16 payers, the Medicaid Sweep Process, Remittance Entry Process, Extraordinary Circumstance (EC), and the SFA call center statistics and trends were reviewed. There was a discussion about how the call center will shift to support the implementation of the EI-Hub and another discussion regarding billing.</p> <p>Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit, provided an update on the fiscal agent payment data (see presentation). Topics discussed included child enrollment, provider capacity, timeliness of payments, and insurance and Medicaid reimbursement. Comparing Q4 2021 data to Q4 data 2020, child enrollment increased, the number of providers increased (which is more an indicator of services than actual providers available), and claim volume increased. Regarding timeliness of provider payment, more than 95% of claims were paid in full in 2021 Q4 and 90% of claims were paid within 35 days. Timely submission of claims by providers is a little higher, but not significant, with 90% of claims submitted within 63 days. The commercial insurance reimbursement rate increased between 2021 Q4 and 2020 Q4. The claims volume billed to commercial insurance and to Medicaid increased Q4 2021 from Q4 2020, and the reimbursement rate has improved from Q4 2021.</p> <p>There were discussions about the Covered Lives assessment versus what NYS receives in reimbursement through commercial insurance and about provider capacity. The Covered Lives legislation references a \$40 million EI services pool. On average NYS has been getting about \$12 million per year from commercial insurance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update from PCG will be given at the June 2022 meeting</li>   <li>• An update on the Fiscal Agent Payment Data will be given at the June 2022 meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Agenda Items</b></p>	<p>Agenda items suggested by EICC members for future EICC meetings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ISC and OSC monthly rates update</li> <li>• Update on Legislation Amendment to Add Mental Health Provider Types (Legislation Amendment Section 69-4.1)</li> <li>• The Department's plan to reach out to under-referring neighborhoods to address some of the findings in the Department's equity report.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>Public comments were submitted prior to the meeting and read aloud. Five (5) comments were received. Pamela Madeiros, Steven Sanders, and Paola Jordan presented their public comments and Dawn Smith read comments from Christopher Treiber and Meredith Berger.</p>	

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<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:18p.m.	

Draft