

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – September 15, 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="447 250 1734 625"> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Lynn Amell - Rochester</td> <td>X</td> <td>Lidiya Lednyak</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Jessica Benton</td> <td>X</td> <td>Melissa Groth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner - MARO</td> <td>-</td> <td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Heidi Bond</td> <td>X</td> <td>Lynn Shea - Rochester</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Bonnie Catlin</td> <td>X</td> <td>Robin Stegman</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Brigitte Desport - MARO</td> <td>X</td> <td>Angella Timothy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Amy De Vito</td> <td>X</td> <td>Elina Tsenter</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>-</td> <td>Marina Yoegel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Cheryl Hogan</td> <td>-</td> <td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Talina Jones</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Leah Esther Lax</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Zahra Alaali, Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Diane Ginsburg, Mike Iorio, Kenneth Moehringer, Ray Pierce, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, William Sacks, 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>	X	Lynn Amell - Rochester	X	Lidiya Lednyak	-	Jessica Benton	X	Melissa Groth	X	Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner - MARO	-	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola	X	Heidi Bond	X	Lynn Shea - Rochester	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Robin Stegman	X	Brigitte Desport - MARO	X	Angella Timothy	X	Amy De Vito	X	Elina Tsenter	-	Raymond Bowman	X	Antonia Weidner	X	Steve Held	-	Marina Yoegel	X	Cheryl Hogan	-	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	-	Talina Jones			-	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 10:23 a.m. and thanked Council Members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) meeting.</p> <p>The next EICC full Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 15, 2022, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, 2022.</p> <p>Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the June 16, 2022, meeting and the July 26, 2022, Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Amy DeVito and a second by Heidi Bond to approve the June 16, 2022, meeting minutes. Twelve (12) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The minutes from the June 16, 2022, meeting passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next full Council meeting will be December 15, 2022</li> <li>• The next Executive Committee meeting will be October 25, 2022</li> </ul>																																																
<p><b>New Business</b> <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p>	<p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI), provided updates on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OSEP Determination to NYS Part C</li> <li>• DMS 2.0 (Differentiated Monitoring and Support 2.0)</li> <li>• Promotional Campaign</li> <li>• Student Loan Forgiveness</li> <li>• Health Care Worker Bonus</li> <li>• Covered Lives</li> <li>• TA, Training, and SSIP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the December 2022 meeting</li> </ul>																																																

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	<p>Zahra Alaali, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention (EHDI) Program, provided updates on the EHDI program on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family-based initiative</li> <li>• the NYEHDI-IS information system.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>EICC Member Updates</i></p> <p><i>Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>BEI Director Ray Pierce announced that Kaleigh Zaloga left her position in the NYS Assembly in August and joined the NYS Coalition for Children’s Behavioral Health. Therefore, she is no longer able to serve on the Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC).</p> <p>BEI Director Ray welcomed new EICC member Bonnie Catlin, LCSW, as the new representative from the Office of Mental Health (OMH). She is the Director for Strategic Clinical Solutions, Office of Prevention and Health Initiatives. She is filling the seat vacated by Donna Bradbury, who retired in June. Ray Pierce thanked Donna Bradbury for her service on the Council.</p> <p>BEI Director Ray Pierce announced that scheduling is underway to set the dates for the EICC 2023 meetings. Members will receive a list of the potential meeting dates after the meeting to review for any conflicts.</p> <p>There were discussions regarding rate changes for Early Intervention (EI) service providers and the implementation of telehealth.</p> <p>A motion was made by Steve Held, seconded by Melissa Groth, in the form of a letter to Governor Hochul requesting her to support an 11% increase in all EI base rates commencing in 2022 and continuing thereafter. (See attached). Thirteen (13) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The motion passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EICC Member updates will be provided at the December 2022 meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Report of Task Force Activities</b></p> <p><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>Lidiya Lednyak, EICC Task Force Advisor, provided an update on the Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force activities. (See presentation). She reviewed the membership of the task force and stated that the task force is addressing the following two topics: 1) how to get providers that are currently in the system to work in EI and 2) how to attract new EI providers, specifically students who will be entering the workforce. Lidiya Lednyak reviewed the task force charter, task force recommendations, and the key milestones of the Workforce Capacity Subcommittee – Competencies. She further reviewed the recommendations of the academic partners. She mentioned that there has been a lot of discussion about the upcoming teletherapy guidance and reviewed the next steps the task force will undertake. Continued engagement between the EICC and the academic partners is recommended.</p> <p>Steve Held, Vice Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force (See presentation). The task force is addressing the methodology and some of the barriers to changing the rates for EI service providers. Ken Moehringer presented on the concept of collapsing the 16 regional rates into two (2) rates, one rate for downstate and one rate for upstate. The dividing line for the rates will need to be determined. He explained the impact on the two (2) EI regions and noted that the concept is to tie the EI rate to a current Medicaid rate, which has already been approved by CMS. A discussion ensued. The task force’s discussions, their general agreements and their remaining concerns, were reviewed. Lidiya Lednyak stated that some of the discussions have focused on adjusting the methodology to create an incentive to deliver in-person services in addition to modifying the methodology to bring the bottom of the base rates up.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force updates will be given at the December 2022 meeting</li> </ul>

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<i>Using Distance Coaching to Improve SLP Use of Implementation Strategies</i>	Stefanie Blanco and Dr. Kate Franklin from New York Medical College – School of Health Sciences and Practice presented remotely on Using Distance Coaching to Improve SLP Use of Implementation Strategies. (See presentation). They shared the results of a pilot study that they completed at NY Medical College, which focused on the development of the use of coaching strategies in teaching, augmentative and alternative communication content and key concepts to EI providers who are working with children on their caseloads with complex communication needs.	
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12:05 p.m. to 12:30 p.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><i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>Ryan White, Paula Van Meter, &amp; Paul Ross, PCG, provided an update on the EI-Hub (See presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics included:</li> <li>• Transition timeline review – an official launch date for the EI-Hub has not been announced. There will be an approximately two (2) months’ notice before the launch date</li> <li>• Sandbox update – Role Administrator accounts were configured in August 2022</li> <li>• Testing update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 837 loader testing – gives billing providers the opportunity to test the submission of their claims from either their third-party system or clearinghouses that they use through the 837 P file upload process.</li> <li>○ UAT (User Acceptance Testing) –There are three (3) Rounds of end-to-end testing. Round 1 was completed; Round 2 is occurring; Round 3 dates are to be determined (TBA)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Training update – At the launch of the EI-Hub, the LMS will be accessible through single sign-on. There will be additional training webinars prior to go-live</li> <li>• Highlight resources that are available – Resources including user guides &amp; job AIDS can be accessed through the LMS</li> <li>• Overview of timing for additional resources through go-live</li> </ul> <p>Paula Van Meter, PCG, provided an update from the State Fiscal Agent (see presentation). PCG presented statistics on SFA Billing and Claiming, including enrollment, provider capacity, timeliness of payments, and insurance and Medicaid reimbursement. Due to Covered Lives, claims with an active insurance policy for Date of Service 1/1/2022, or after will no longer be billed to commercial insurance or Medicaid. PCG implemented the updates starting with the March 21,2022, NYEIS file. Starting in June 2022, commercial insurance percentage billed was 0%. As the percentage billed to Commercial decreased, there was an increase in the percentage for Escrow billed of 8% as well as a slight increase in Medicaid of 1%.</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 provider payments, and commercial insurance and Medicaid reimbursement. For program year July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, there was an increase of 5% from the prior program year, which was only 3% lower than we were prior to COVID. The increase for the most recent quarter was 15%. Ken Moehringer provided an update on provider capacity. The number of billing providers that were active actively billing in the most recent quarter increased by 4% from the second quarter of 2021. There were more active billing providers for Q2 2022 with an increase of 4%. This is indicative of there being more services provided, therefore, there are more active providers. Regarding timeliness of provider payment, for the most recent quarter, more than 98% of all provider claims were paid fully. Covered lives has been fully implemented, and commercial insurance is no longer being billed for any more active claims. The amount billed to Medicaid increased 15% from a year ago, and the reimbursement rate by Medicaid was steady at 7.3%.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the December 2022 meeting</li> <li>• An update from PCG will be given at the December 2022 meeting</li> <li>• An update on the Fiscal Agent Payment Data will be given at the December 2022 meeting</li> </ul>

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<b>Future Agenda Items</b>	Agenda items suggested by EICC members for future EICC meetings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• EI service provider rates</li> <li>• Review of EICC Bylaws</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Comment</b>	Dawn Smith read a public comment submitted to BEI by Edith Ayer, MA/CCC-SLP regarding rate increases for Early Intervention service providers.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:17 p.m.	