



Department
of Health

Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update

Marina Yoegel, Task Force Co-Chair
Lidiya Lednyak, Task Force Co-Chair

Task Force Members

- **Co-Chairpersons:** Marina Yoegel and Lidiya Lednyak
- **Parents:** Amy DeVito and Leah Esther Lax
- **Personnel Preparation or Training:** Brigitte Desport
- **Provider Representatives:** Steve Held and Robin Stegman
- **Municipal Representative:** Heidi Bond
- **Discretionary:** Lynn Shea
- **State Agencies:** Elina Tsenter (Department of Education) and Patricia Zuber-Wilson (Office of Addiction Services and Supports)
- **Advisor:** Roxana Inscho
- **Department of Health Staff:** Raymond Pierce, Peter Baran, Diane Ginsburg, and Jennifer Sandshaw

Original Task Force Proposed Charter

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

Committee Overview

- The State Early Intervention Coordinating Council Workforce Capacity Task Force is committed to supporting the New York State Bureau of Early Intervention in its goal of building capacity in the Early Intervention workforce. To date, the Task Force has worked to support the Bureau 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

Committee Overview

- 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 New York State
- Provide feedback on the Bureau Telehealth Guidance Document
- Inform the development of a webpage regarding the State Bureau of Early Intervention's Early Intervention Competency Areas

Task Force Update

- Telehealth surveys
 - June 2023- the Task Force updated the Parent and Provider telehealth surveys and sent to the Bureau for final review, approval and dissemination
 - Surveys expected to be administered online through Survey Monkey and via hard copy
 - Co-chairs reviewed and integrated final Bureau feedback in 10/23
 - Telehealth surveys expected to be released by the end of 2023

Task Force Update

- Companion Document for the New York State Competency Areas for the Delivery of Early Intervention Services in the State was finalized and posted on the State Department Of Health Bureau of Early Intervention Webpage
- The State Bureau of Early Intervention sent an email in 10/2023 announcing that website content was finalized

Task Force Update

- The Task Force developed draft recommendations to enhance workforce capacity via the provider approval process by:
 - Including course work hours associated with the Competency Areas, when obtained in combination with clinical fieldwork placements in birth to five settings, counted towards the 1600/1000 clock hour requirement when submitted by graduates as part of their State Bureau of Early Intervention individual provider applications
 - Proposed process reviewed by the Task Force members in 10/23
 - Proposed process documents disseminated to academic programs for review. Final feedback due 12/1/2023

Task Force Update: City University of New York Academic Research Partner Background

- As part of the academic partners' review of the companion document, additional recommendations were to address Early Intervention workforce capacity.
 - Current New York State Education Department Office of the Higher Education and the Office of Professions regulations - standard curricula in Early Childhood Special Education, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology academic programs do not require students to learn about Early Intervention core competencies or engage in clinical experiences with infants/toddlers and their families in Early Intervention.

Task Force Update: City University of New York Academic Research Partner Background

- Lack of college-level Early Intervention course content, and clinical experiences devoted to Early Intervention 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
- This is having a negative impact building workforce capacity efforts

Task Force Update: City University of New York Academic Research Partners

- To examine and act upon the recommendations made by the academic partners to address structural issues in New York State impacting Early Intervention workforce capacity, the New York City 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.

Task Force Update: City University of New York Academic Research Partners

- Conduct an examination, research, and analyses of the rules, regulations, and requirements governing pre-service preparation in:
 - New York State Education Department Office of Higher Education for certification in Early Childhood Special Education
 - New York State Education Department Office of the Professions for licensures in Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology

Task Force Update: City University of New York Academic Research Partners

- Submit report to the State Department Of Health Bureau of Early Intervention through the Task Force 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 Early Intervention 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 Early Intervention settings (e.g., home, community, and bilingual)

Task Force Update: City University of New York Academic Research Partners

- Draft report to be submitted to the Task Force in 1/2024

Next Steps

- Provide feedback to academic research partner report
- Finalize recommendations to enhance the individual provider approval process and deliver next set of recommendations in the State Bureau of Early Intervention
- Convene academic partners across NYS to expand exposure to NYS Competency Areas and create a forum for academic programs to discuss the creation of concentrations and specializations in Early Intervention
- Review and make recommendations to the 2006 Co-visit guidance document to address collaboration to support transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams

Next Steps

- Awaiting the Bureau of Early Intervention Release of Updated Telehealth Surveys
- Awaiting finalization of rulemaking implementing the reduction of the 1600- hour to 1000-hour requirement

Questions

