

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – March 14, 2024**

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="447 280 1732 654"> <tr><td></td><td>Lynn Amell</td><td>X</td><td>Jordan Kase</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Jessica Benton</td><td>X</td><td>Leah Esther Lax</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner</td><td>X</td><td>Lidiya Lednyak</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Heidi Bond</td><td></td><td>Amy Paulin</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Raymond Bowman</td><td></td><td>Noah Rohde</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Bonnie Catlin</td><td>X</td><td>Lynn Shea (Rochester)</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Joy Connolly</td><td>X</td><td>Robin Stegman</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)</td><td>X</td><td>Angella Timothy</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Brigitte Desport (NYC)</td><td></td><td>Elina Tsenter</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Amy DeVito</td><td>X</td><td>Marina Yoegel</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Melissa Groth</td><td>X</td><td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Steve Held</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Mary Amendola, Douglas Arthur, Peter Baran, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Diane Ginsburg, Mike Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Kelli Lyndaker, Ken Moehringer, Travis O'Donnell, Raymond Pierce, Elizabeth Rialdi, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, and Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai.</p> <p>Guests: Michael Bergman, Beth Elenko, and Jacqueline Shannon- Brooklyn College, George Hulse- Emblem Health, Nancy Hampton- NYS Council on Children and Families, Brad Hutton- Agencies for Children's Therapy Services (ACTS) and Hutton Consulting, Scott Jill- New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, Barbara Knudson-Chouffi-ACTS, Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs, Sarah Ravenhall- New York State Association of County Health Officials, and Jana Vitale- Children's Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy Early Intervention Agency. Rob Lillpopp, Paula VanMeter, and Lauren Zelinsky from Public Consulting Group. In NYC, Scott Mesh- CEO of Los Ninos Services.</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>		Lynn Amell	X	Jordan Kase		Jessica Benton	X	Leah Esther Lax		Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Heidi Bond		Amy Paulin		Raymond Bowman		Noah Rohde	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	X	Joy Connolly	X	Robin Stegman	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Angella Timothy	X	Brigitte Desport (NYC)		Elina Tsenter	X	Amy DeVito	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Melissa Groth	X	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	X	Steve Held			
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<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting.</p> <p>The next full Council meeting will be Thursday, June 13, 2024, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The next Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the December 14, 2023, meeting and the January 30, 2024, Executive Committee meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Amy DeVito and a second by Marina Yoegel to approve the December 14, 2023, meeting minutes. Twelve (12) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and two (2) abstained. The minutes from the December 14, 2023, meeting minutes passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next full Council meeting will be June 13, 2024.</li> <li>• The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 30, 2024.</li> </ul>																																																
<p><b>New Business</b> <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p>	<p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Covered Lives-</b> On 1/18/2024, \$15.4 million of funding was deposited in the county escrow account. The Department is advocating for the remaining \$5 million from 2022, and the \$5 million from 2023, to be deposited to the counties, along with a payment schedule for covered lives funding so that the counties can accurately budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>																																																

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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<p><b>New Business</b> <i>Bureau Administrative Updates (continued)</i></p> <p><i>Regulations and Implementation Update</i></p> <p><i>Council Member Updates</i></p> <p><i>Vice-Chair Nominations</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Academic Partners Research Presentation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Executive Budget Proposals</b>- 5% rate increase for in-person services and 4% rate modifier for rural areas and underserved communities for in-person services that will be implemented in federal in fiscal year 2026; eliminate back-to-back group services for a child on the same day; limit the size of a group session to six children and limit the number of children having a one-to-one aide in a group session to four; reimburse teletherapy at the existing facility rates; and consecutive extended home visits on the same day for the same service on the same child would be prohibited.</li> <li>• <b>11% Rate Increase</b>- The New York State Assembly is recommending an 11% rate increase, which is in line with recommendations from the Early Intervention Council, Early Childhood Advisory Council, and various providers and early childhood advocacy organizations.</li> <li>• <b>Audit Report</b>- The Department had findings in the areas pertaining to service access, mediation, fiscal operations, and quality assurance. The Department met with the Office of Special Education to discuss the report, which is published on their website.</li> <li>• <b>Early Intervention Provider Recruitment</b>- The Department developed a three-part presentation called “How to Become an Early Intervention Program Provider”, targeted be posted on the Early Intervention website in May. Currently investigating loan forgiveness for providers.</li> <li>• <b>EI Hub</b>- Launch date of June 3, 2024, announced. In-person trainings across the state are in progress.</li> </ul> <p>Douglas Arthur, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit, presented an update on the Early Intervention Regulations.</p> <p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, introduced new Council members. Dr. Jordan Kase, designee for Dr. Sherlita Amler, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at NY Medical College and the Director of Regional Neonatal Follow Up Program, Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital; Noah Rohde, designee for Senator John Mannion, the Senator’s Legislative Director, replaced Deanna Ewart; Assembly member Amy Paulin is replacing Richard Gottfried. Announced that Lynn Amell is resigning as of April 1, 2024. Announced that Mike Iorio has been promoted from Unit Manager to Associate Director in the Bureau of Early Intervention, in Yan Wu’s former position. He will be overseeing the transition to the new EI Hub IT system and the Bureau’s data, evaluation, and performance management programs.</p> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, announced the annual Vice-Chair nominations, Nominees will be contacted. Members who accept the nomination will be on the ballot at the June meeting.</p> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called for Open Discussion. He recommended a motion to move the EI Hub launch date to October 2024, for the Department to change the implementation date of amendments of the regulations from 4/1/2024 to 9/2024, call on the Division of Budget to immediately release the remaining \$10 million owed to municipalities via Covered Lives Assessment, and administrative changes, including in the proposed Executive Budget should not be included in the 2025 enacted Executive Budget. A motion was made by Melissa Groth and a second by Marina Yoegel.</p> <p>Michael Bergen and Jacqueline Shannon from Brooklyn College and Beth Elenko from the NY Institute of Technology presented their research summary.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> <li>• Council Vice-Chair vote will occur at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Report of Department Activities</b> <i>Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Program Update</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth Rialdi, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection, and Intervention Program, provided updates on the Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program update will be provided at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>	<p>12:15pm-12:45pm</p>	

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<p><b>New Business</b> (continued) <i>Office of Children Family Services Announcement</i></p> <p><i>Vote on Motion Made During Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>Council member Joy Connolly (Office of Children Family Services) announced that the Office is working on building a definition for quality childcare. A survey was sent to families and providers which opened this week and will close at the end of May. The Childcare Development Fund State Plan is being drafted. The office will announce public hearings in April. The draft will be posted late April and the hearings will be in May.</p> <p>Eleven (11) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and three (3) abstained. The motion made during the Open Discussion passed.</p>	
<p><b>Report of Task Force Activities</b> <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update</i></p> <p><i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i></p>	<p>Marina Yoegel and Lidiya Lednyak, Task-Force Co-Chairs provided Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force including Competency- Based Training and Telehealth updates.</p> <p>Steve Held, Task Force Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force updates will be given at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b> <i>EI-Hub Update</i></p> <p><i>Public Consulting Group State Fiscal Agent Update</i></p> <p><i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>Rob Lillpopp, Paul Ross, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group provided an update on the EI Hub.</p> <p>Paula Van Meter from the Public Consulting Group provided the State Fiscal Agent update.</p> <p>Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit provided the Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> <li>• A State Fiscal Update will be given at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> <li>• A Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the June 13, 2024, meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Agenda Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Homes Extension response to the request to extend the agreement with the Bureau.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Homes to be added to the June 13, 2024, meeting agenda.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jana Vitale, Director of Children’s Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy, had concerns about the EI Hub. Sarah Ravenhall from the NYS Association of County Health Officials had concerns about EI Hub, called for the release of the \$10 million from the Department of Budget, requested to extend the regulation implementation date, and Health Homes to extend the agreement with the Bureau. Scott Mesh, CEO of Los Ninos Services, voiced concerns about the provider reimbursement rates and staff turnover, lowering group size and reducing telehealth rates. A comment from Dana Walfish, EI parent and Westchester Local EICC member, was read by BEI staff member Diane Ginsburg.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 3:01 p.m.</p>	