

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
Minutes – December 11, 2024**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																												
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="447 280 1734 630"> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Jessica Benton</td> <td>X</td> <td>Leah Esther Lax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Heidi Bond</td> <td>X</td> <td>Lidiya Lednyak</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Raymond Bowman</td> <td>X</td> <td>Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Bonnie Catlin</td> <td>X</td> <td>Emily Mondschein (Rochester)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Joy Connolly</td> <td>X</td> <td>Noah Rohde</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)</td> <td>X</td> <td>Lynn Shea (Rochester)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-</td> <td>Brigitte Desport</td> <td>X</td> <td>Robin Stegman (MARO/NYC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Amy DeVito</td> <td>X</td> <td>Angella Timothy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Katie Heath (Rochester)</td> <td>X</td> <td>Elina Tsenter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Steve Held</td> <td>X</td> <td>Marina Yoegel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>Sherlita Amler</td> <td>X</td> <td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td> </tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Diane Ginsburg, Mike Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Kelli Lyndaker, Ken Moehringer, Travis O’Donnell, Raymond Pierce, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, and Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai.</p> <p>Guests: Albany: Vanessa Bongiorno- Farrell Fritz/ Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services; Kayla Bogdanowicz-Reid, McNally, Savage; Stephanie Bugos- Measurement Inc., Heather Evans- Hinman Straub; Brad Hutton- Hutton Health Consultants/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services ; Whitney Loy- McCarton Center Bronx; Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs, Lacie Schweigert- Independent Provider of Early Intervention Services; Katherine Varga- Retired, pre-Kindergarten; and Jana Vitale- Children’s Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services. Rob Lillpopp, Paul Ross, Paula VanMeter, and Lauren Zelinsky from Public Consulting Group. Rochester: Alison Agosti- Bright Start Pediatric Services; Brigit Hurley- The Children’s Agenda. NYC: Jenny Veloz- Citizens’ Committee for Children.</p> <p><i>All references to the Department refer to the New York State Department of Health, Bureau to the Bureau of Early Intervention, and Council to the Early Intervention Coordinating Council.</i></p>	-	Jessica Benton	X	Leah Esther Lax	X	Heidi Bond	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Raymond Bowman	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Emily Mondschein (Rochester)	X	Joy Connolly	X	Noah Rohde	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	-	Brigitte Desport	X	Robin Stegman (MARO/NYC)	X	Amy DeVito	X	Angella Timothy	X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Elina Tsenter	X	Steve Held	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Sherlita Amler	X	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
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<p>Welcome</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting.</p> <p>The next full Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 28, 2025. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the September 12, 2024, meeting and the October 28, 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 September 12, 2024, meeting minutes. Nineteen (19) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and one (1) abstained. The minutes from the September 12, 2024, meeting minutes passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next full Council meeting will be March 13, 2025. • The next Executive Committee meeting will be January 28, 2025. 																																												
<p>New Business <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"> • The 5% rate increase for early intervention, in-person services that was included in the State fiscal year 2024-25 enacted budget. • Infant/child mental health diagnostic code will be added to evaluations. • The Department of Health and the New York State Education Department are working on guides for transition from early intervention to preschool special education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau plans to have the crosswalk and billing codes for infant/child mental health out to the field this month. 																																												

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<p>New Business (continued) <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p> <p><i>Vice-Chair Re-Vote</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau is working with Contractor Measurement Inc., to develop two new trainings for early intervention stakeholders: due process and role and responsibilities of early intervention officials. • The State Systemic Improvement Advisory Group will be meeting again in January 2025 to discuss potential areas of focus around family outcomes. • Provider enrollment is now completely electronic and interested individuals and agencies can access the provider application system directly from the Bureau’s website. <p><i>(Action items from the October 28, 2024 Executive Committee meeting):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered Lives- The 2024 allocation of \$15.4 million and covered lives assessment for municipalities is in process. • EI Hub System • Fiscal Report- addressed escrow and stopgap payments. <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, announced that a re-vote for Vice-Chair was necessary as there was a tie at the last Council meeting.</p> <p>Letter regarding the Early Intervention services rate increases and funding: A motion to approve the letter was made by Steve Held and a second by Lidiya Lednyak. Sixteen (16) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and four (4) abstained. The motion passed.</p> <p>Letter addressing issues related to the EI Hub: A motion to approve the letter was made by Steve Held and a second by Marina Yoegel. Nineteen (19) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and one (1) abstained. The motion passed.</p> <p>Public Comment Guidelines: A motion to approve the guidelines was made by Steve Held and a second by Amy DeVito. Eighteen (18) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and two (2) abstained. The motion passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides for the transition from early intervention to preschool expected in the spring of 2025. • The Bureau will send an announcement when it receives approval to distribute the funding to the counties. • Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the March 13, 2025, meeting.
<p>Report of Department Activities <i>Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan</i></p>	<p>Dr. Shu-kuang Tai, Data and Program Evaluation Unit; Karen Dwyer, Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan /Outcomes Unit; and Kelli Lyndaker, Provider Approval and Due Process Unit provided the Annual Performance Report and State Systemic Improvement Plan.</p> <p>A motion to approve the report was made by Steve Held and a second by Amy DeVito. Nineteen (20) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The motion passed.</p>	
<p>Lunch Break</p>	<p>12:30pm-1:00pm</p>	
<p>Report of Additional Department Activities <i>EI-Hub 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the March 13, 2025, meeting.
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Public comments regarding the provider shortage, EI Hub issues, and rate increases for Early Intervention services were made. Ten (10) were read by Diane Ginsburg, Health Program Administrator, Bureau of Early Intervention, in Albany. Six (6) comments were read in-person in Albany and at the remote sites in Rochester and NYC.</p>	
<p>Future Agenda Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How DC (diagnostic classification): 0 to 5 is going to be implemented in early intervention. • Mental health professionals have been approved to provide early intervention services. Provide an explanation of the specific types of services that are within their scope of practice, and what is the expectation of the Department. 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:46 p.m.</p>	