

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council  
Minutes – March 13, 2025**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																												
<b>Welcome</b>	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting. X= present:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Jessica Benton</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">X</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Leah Esther Lax (NYC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td>Heidi Bond</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Lidiya Lednyak</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Raymond Bowman</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Bonnie Catlin</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Emily Mondschein (Rochester)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td>Joy Connolly</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Lynn Shea (Rochester)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Brigitte Desport (NYC)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Robin Stegman (NYC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Amy DeVito</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Angella Timothy</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Katie Heath (Rochester)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Elina Tsenter</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Steve Held</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Marina Yoegel</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Jordan Kase</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Department of Health staff present:</b> Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Diane Ginsburg, Deborah Gutierrez, Mike Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Jaclyn Kingston, Kelli Lyndaker, Ken Moehringer, Raymond Pierce, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai, and Laura Trolio.  <b>Guests:</b> Stephanie Bugos- Measurement Inc., Brad Hutton- Hutton Health Consultants/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services; Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs; Isabella Moryl- LeMoyne College; Margie Rajca- Hamilton County Public Health; Lauren Tobias- Brown and Weinraub; 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.  <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>	-	Jessica Benton	X	Leah Esther Lax (NYC)	-	Heidi Bond	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Raymond Bowman	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Emily Mondschein (Rochester)	-	Joy Connolly			X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	X	Brigitte Desport (NYC)	X	Robin Stegman (NYC)	X	Amy DeVito	X	Angella Timothy	X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Elina Tsenter	X	Steve Held	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Jordan Kase	X	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	
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<b>Welcome</b>  <b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:18 am and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting.</p> <p>The next full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Executive Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 29, 2025. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the December 11, 2024, meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Amy DeVito and a second by Patricia Zuber-Wilson to approve the December 11, 2024, meeting minutes. Eighteen (18) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and none abstained. The motion passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next full Council meeting will be June 11, 2025.</li> <li>• The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 29, 2025.</li> </ul>																																												
<b>New Business</b> <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i>	<p>Ray Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been no changes to the Part C program under IDEA. Medicaid has stayed the same.</li> <li>• The Bureau submitted an application to the federal government for funding and will be posted on the Bureau website through 4/4/2025. The public can comment on what the Bureau includes in the application for the Part C grant during this time.</li> <li>• The Bureau’s annual performance report was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs on 1/31/2025 and is being reviewed. Determination of system performance is expected in June.</li> <li>• Modifications to implement state plan amendments for the rate changes for virtual, in -person visits, and the 4% modifier for in -person services in rural and underserved areas are priorities. The Bureau will be submitting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the June 11, 2025, meeting.</li> </ul>																																												

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<p><i>Council Membership Updates</i></p> <p>Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Update</p> <p><i>Council Vice Chair Nominations</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p>	<p>a state plan amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the 4% increase with an effective date of 4/1/2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bureau initiated stopgap payments on a biweekly basis to billing providers who had completed an agreement amendment and meet the biweekly escrow threshold for a stopgap payment.</li> <li>• The Bureau is awaiting the CMS approval to implement the 5% rate increase for in person services.</li> <li>• The diagnostic classification of mental health and developmental disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood Manual, the DC 0 -5, was added to our early intervention list of developmental assessment instruments. Trainings are available.</li> </ul> <p>Senator John Mannion was elected Congressman; therefore, his designee Noah Rohde is no longer on the council. The Senate may designate another council member.</p> <p>Kelli Lyndaker, Provider Approval and Due Process Unit; Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit; Jessica Simmons, Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan/Outcomes Unit; and Dr. Shu-kuang Tai, Data and Program Evaluation Unit provided an Office of Special Education Programs Update.</p> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, announced that every March the Council nominates candidates for Vice Chair. Members are to return ballots the day of the meeting.</p> <p>The Council requested that the Department share the actual rates for telehealth with the field. This information needs to be approved by CMS first.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bureau will provide telehealth rates when approved by CMS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12:00pm- 12:30pm</b></p>	
<p><b>New Business (continued)</b> <i>Council Bylaws Review</i></p>	<p>Brett Engel, Department legal Counsel, explained that that the Governor’s Executive Order 11, which permitted public meetings to be held remotely during the pandemic, was not extended. This includes all the Council’s meetings. A discussion about the Videoconferencing Resolution and public comment guidelines was made. A motion was made by Steve Held to amend the Bylaws to include public comment guidelines and a second by Amy DeVito. Sixteen (16) voted in favor, one (1) opposed, none abstained. The motion passed.</p>	
<p><b>Report of Department Activities</b> <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Update</i></p>	<p>Megan Tyrrell, Perinatal Regionalization Unit Manager, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program, provided an Early Hearing Detection and Intervention update.</p>	
<p><b>Report of Additional Department Activities</b> <i>Family Initiative Coordination Services Project Update</i></p> <p><i>EI-Hub and State Fiscal Agent Updates</i></p>	<p>Angela M. Furci MS, Ed., Family Initiative Coordinator, Just Kids Early Childhood Learning Center and Karen Dwyer, Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan/Outcomes Unit provided a Family Initiative Coordination Services Project update.</p> <p>EI Hub and State Fiscal Agent updates were provided by Rob Lillpopp, Paul Ross, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on the EI-Hub will be given at the June 11, 2025, meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>A public comment was made by Jana Vitale about Early Intervention evaluations and budget.</p>	
<p><b>Future Agenda Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telehealth efficacy presentation and discussion</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:36 p.m.</p>	