

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
Minutes – June 11, 2025**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																												
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting. X= present:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="457 280 1738 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</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></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola</td><td>X</td><td>Lynn Shea (Rochester)</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Brigitte Desport (NYC)</td><td>X</td><td>Robin Stegman</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>-</td><td>Marina Yoegel</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Jordan Kase</td><td>-</td><td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td></tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Peter Baran, Ashish Dhingra, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Diane Ginsburg, Deborah Gutierrez, Michael Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Jaclyn Kingston, Kelli Lyndaker, Ken Moehringer, Carolyn Perry, Raymond Pierce, Elizabeth Rialdi, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai. Guests: Stephanie Bugos- Measurement Inc., Brad Hutton- Hutton Health Consultants/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services; Whitney Loy- McCarton Foundation; Tracy Lyman- Council on Children and Families; Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs; and Jana Vitale- Children’s Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services. Rob Lillpopp, Matthew O’Brien, Paula VanMeter, and Lauren Zelinsky from Public Consulting Group. <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	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Emily Mondschein (Rochester)	X	Joy Connolly			-	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	X	Brigitte Desport (NYC)	X	Robin Stegman	X	Amy DeVito	X	Angella Timothy	X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Elina Tsenter	X	Steve Held	-	Marina Yoegel	-	Jordan Kase	-	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 10:20 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, September 11, 2025, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Task Forces meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the March 13, 2025, meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Lidiya Lednyak and a second by Amy DeVito to approve the March 13, 2025, meeting minutes. Fourteen (14) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and one (1) abstained. The motion passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next full Council meeting will be on 9/11/2025. • The next Task Forces meeting will be on 7/9/2025. 																																												
<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"> • Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C funding. • Awaiting approval for the 5% rate increase for in-person Early Intervention services and telehealth reduction by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. • 4% rate modifier for underserved and hard to serve areas currently under Division of Budget review. • Review and approval process for changing the maximum number of participants in group Early Intervention services from ten to six has begun. • The final stopgap payment will be made to providers on June 19th. The recoupment of the stopgap amount from providers to reimburse the counties will start on July 23rd. • Payment of escrow on a biweekly basis will be reinstated on October 1, 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the 9/11/2025, meeting. 																																												

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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<p><i>Council Membership Updates</i></p> <p><i>Council Vice-Chair Vote</i></p> <p><i>Council Committees for 2025-26</i></p> <p><i>Videoconferencing Resolution/Written Procedures Vote</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p> <p><i>New York State Agency Early Intervention Updates</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement Inc., the training contractor, has attended events at colleges and universities to increase awareness of the Early Intervention program for students who are in preparatory degree programs that are aligned with Early Intervention Program. • Family Initiative Coordinator contract <p>No updates to membership.</p> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, announced that at every June meeting the Council members vote for the Vice-Chair. Three (3) members were nominated and all accepted. Council members were asked to turn in their ballots at the lunch break.</p> <p>Council members were contacted about their interest in joining or remaining on a task force or the Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 term and asked to respond by June 25, 2025.</p> <p>A motion was made by Steve Held to approve the Videoconferencing Resolution/Written Procedures and a second by Shelbi McIlroy. Fifteen (15) voted in favor, none opposed, one (1) abstained. The motion passed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Held asked about immigration guidance for Early Intervention. • Leah Esther Lax mentioned that the 1199 Service Employees International Union received a grant for those attending social work school and asked if Early Intervention could receive a part of the funding. The Bureau requested information about the grant be sent for review. <p>Agency updates provided by Carolyn Perry (Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs), Bonnie Catlin (Office of Mental Health), Joy Connolly (Office of Children and Family Services), and Elina Tsenter (NYS Education Department).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEI will resend the immigration guidance to the Council that they received. • BEI will send the link for Building Inclusive Spaces for Children with Special Needs from OCFS to the Council.
<p>Report of Department Activities <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Update</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth Rialdi, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program announced that the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention EHDI office was eliminated. The EHDI Program submitted a competitive grant application that was set to begin on July 1st. However, they were informed the review of applications were on hold and unclear whether a review will occur, which would result in the Program no longer having this funding. Newborn hearing screening is required by law and will continue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program update will be provided at the 9/11/2025, meeting.
<p>Lunch Break</p>		
<p>Report of Department Activities (continued) <i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i></p>	<p>Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit provided the Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the 9/11/2025, meeting.

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<p>Report of Additional Department Activities <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update</i></p> <p><i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i></p> <p><i>EI-Hub and State Fiscal Agent Updates</i></p>	<p>Marina Yoegel and Lidiya Lednyak, Task-Force Co-Chairs. provided the Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force update.</p> <p>Steve Held, Task Force Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force.</p> <p>EI Hub and State Fiscal Agent updates were provided by Rob Lillpopp, Matthew O’Brien, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force updates will be given at the 9/11/2025, meeting. • An update on the EI-Hub and State Fiscal updates will be given at the 9/11/2025, meeting.
<p>New Business (continued)</p>	<p>In response to the EDHI announcement, Councilmember Robin Stegman drafted a letter to Governor Hochul from the Council expressing concern about the impact a funding cut will make on children with hearing loss or deafness and to continue funding. A motion was made by Steve Held to approve the letter and a second by Amy DeVito. Eleven (11) voted in favor, none opposed, three (3) abstained. The motion passed.</p>	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Public comments were provided by Jana Vitale and Whitney Loy.</p>	
<p>Future Agenda Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An expert on the change on how children are learning to present at a future meeting. Council members were asked for recommendations. 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:20 p.m.</p>	