

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
Minutes – September 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 662"> <tr><td>X</td><td>Heidi Bond</td><td>X</td><td>Leah Esther Lax</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Raymond Bowman</td><td>X</td><td>Lidiya Lednyak</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Bonnie Catlin</td><td>X</td><td>Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Victoria Collins</td><td>X</td><td>Emily Mondschein (Rochester)</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Joy Connolly</td><td>X</td><td>Julie Opalecky</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Timothy Conway</td><td>X</td><td>Lynn Shea (Rochester)</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)</td><td>X</td><td>Robin Stegman (NYC)</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Brigitte Desport (NYC)</td><td>-</td><td>Angella Timothy</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Amy DeVito</td><td>X</td><td>Elina Tsenter</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Katie Heath (Rochester)</td><td>X</td><td>Marina Yoegel</td></tr> <tr><td>X</td><td>Steve Held</td><td>X</td><td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td></tr> <tr><td>-</td><td>Jordan Kase</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Department of Health staff present: Mary Amendola, Peter Baran, Ashish Dhingra, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Diane Ginsburg, Jacqueline Goddeau, Deborah Gutierrez, Michael Iorio, Tricia Kandefer, Jaclyn Kingston, Kelli Lyndaker, Raymond Pierce, Elizabeth Rialdi, Jennifer Sandshaw, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, and Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai.</p> <p>Guests: Kayla Bogdanowicz- Reid, McNally and Savage, Grace Dawson- New York State Association of County Health Officials, Brad Hutton- Hutton Health Consultants/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services, Tracy Lyman- Council on Children and Families, Pamela Madeiros- NYS Alliance for Children with Special Needs, and Max Rodriguez- Center for Disability Rights. Rob Lillpopp, Paula VanMeter, and Lauren Zelinsky from Public Consulting Group.</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>	X	Heidi Bond	X	Leah Esther Lax	X	Raymond Bowman	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)	X	Victoria Collins	X	Emily Mondschein (Rochester)	-	Joy Connolly	X	Julie Opalecky	X	Timothy Conway	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Robin Stegman (NYC)	X	Brigitte Desport (NYC)	-	Angella Timothy	X	Amy DeVito	X	Elina Tsenter	X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Steve Held	X	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	-	Jordan Kase			
X	Heidi Bond	X	Leah Esther Lax																																															
X	Raymond Bowman	X	Lidiya Lednyak																																															
X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)																																															
X	Victoria Collins	X	Emily Mondschein (Rochester)																																															
-	Joy Connolly	X	Julie Opalecky																																															
X	Timothy Conway	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)																																															
X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Robin Stegman (NYC)																																															
X	Brigitte Desport (NYC)	-	Angella Timothy																																															
X	Amy DeVito	X	Elina Tsenter																																															
X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Marina Yoegel																																															
X	Steve Held	X	Patricia Zuber-Wilson																																															
-	Jordan Kase																																																	
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>Steve Held, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:19 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, December 10, 2025, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Task Forces meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. Steve Held informed the Council that that the minutes from the June 11, 2025, meeting were emailed to them.</p> <p>A motion was made by Raymond Bowman and a second by Amy DeVito to approve the June 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Sixteen (16) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and two (2) abstained. The motion passed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next full Council meeting will be on 12/10/2025. • The next Task Forces meeting will be on 12/3/2025. 																																																
<p>New Business <i>Bureau Administrative Updates</i></p>	<p>Raymond Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department received the Individual with Disabilities Education Act Part C award letter on 7/1/2025. • On 6/17/2025, the Department received the Office of Special Education Program’s annual performance report determination, and we meet requirements. • The State Plan Amendment for the 5% rate increase is awaiting approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. • The telehealth rate decrease was implemented prospectively for dates of service starting 7/1/2025. • The 4% increase for in-person services in rural and underserved areas of the state modifier was submitted to CMS on 6/30/2025 and waiting for approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the 12/10/2025, meeting. 																																																

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

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
<p><i>Council Membership Updates</i></p> <p><i>Council Committees for 2025-26</i></p> <p><i>Council Bylaws Amendment</i></p> <p><i>Open Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Down Syndrome Awareness</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stoppaps and escrow payments and transportation reimbursements. • Our program audit Request for Proposal for Early Intervention Program Monitoring Quality Improvement Services was posted 8/25/2025 and is available on the Department website. • Wei, Wei & Company will perform a review of claims and plan to start this month. • The Bureau has developed a new resource brochure for parents and caregivers called “Transitioning from Early Intervention Program.” It is available to download from the Bureau’s website or can be ordered through the department’s distribution center. • Measurement Inc. attended several events sponsored by professional organizations and colleges in the late Spring. They provided information to professionals and students about working in the Early Intervention Program as providers. <p>Raymond Pierce, Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, announced new Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timothy Conway, Senior Attorney in the New York State Department of Financial Services. • Julie Opalecky, from Orleans County, provider of Early Intervention and Preschool Physical Therapy Services in Monroe, Genesee, Niagara, and Orleans counties. • Victoria Collins, from Croghan, NY, parent of two children, one who received Early Intervention services. <p>Steve Held introduced the new Vice-Chair, Marina Yoegel, and thanked Amy DeVito for her contributions.</p> <p>Steve Held, Council Chair, announced the Council Committee members for 2025-26.</p> <p>The Executive Committee is no longer meeting in person. The bylaws will be reviewed and amended to reflect this change at the December meeting.</p> <p>A motion was made by Lidiya Lednyak to send a letter from the Council to the Governor and the Department of Health Commissioner asking for support for the implementation of the 5% and 4% rate modifiers and for sufficient funds to be made available to local health departments who pay for EI service costs upfront to help offset the costs of the Early Intervention Program in New York State (Medicaid Retroactive Funds and Covered Lives). A second motion was made by Leah Esther Lax. Fifteen (15) approved, none opposed, and three (3) abstained. The motion passed.</p> <p>Karen Dwyer, MS- Training, Technical Assistance, and State Systemic Improvement Plan/Outcomes Unit presented information Down Syndrome Awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Report of Department Activities <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Update</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth Rialdi, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program update will be provided at the 12/10/2025, meeting.
<p>Lunch Break</p>		

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

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items
Report of Department Activities (continued) <i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i>	Jacqueline Goddeau, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit provided the Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the 12/10/2025, meeting.
Report of Additional Department Activities <i>Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update</i> <i>Rate Setting Methodology Task Force Update</i> <i>EI-Hub and State Fiscal Agent Updates</i>	Marina Yoegel and Lidiya Lednyak, Task-Force Co-Chairs. provided the Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force update. Steve Held, Task Force Chair, provided an update on the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force. EI Hub and State Fiscal Agent updates were provided by Rob Lillpopp, Paula Van Meter, and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force updates will be given at the 12/10/2025, meeting. • An update on the EI-Hub and State Fiscal updates will be given at the 12/10/2025, meeting.
Public Comment	Deborah Mastronardi, Program Director of Competent Care, submitted a comment and was read. Grace Dawson, Program Manager with the New York State Association of County Health Officials, provided a comment.	
Future Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on who can deliver Applied Behavior Analysis services 	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned by Steve Held at 2:40 p.m.	