

**New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council
Minutes – June 18, 2026**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Items																																																				
Welcome	The following members/designated representatives attended the meeting. X= present: <table><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>Tracy Lyman</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Victoria Collins</td><td>X</td><td>Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Joy Connolly</td><td>X</td><td>Emily Mondschein (Rochester)</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Timothy Conway</td><td>X</td><td>Julie Opalecky</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)</td><td>X</td><td>Lynn Shea (Rochester)</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Carlo Cuccaro (Rochester)</td><td>--</td><td>Robin Stegman</td></tr><tr><td>X</td><td>Brigitte Desport (Brooklyn)</td><td>X</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>--</td><td>Patricia Zuber-Wilson</td></tr><tr><td>--</td><td>Jordan Kase</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> Department of Health staff present: Peter Baran, Karen Dwyer, Brett Engel, Diane Ginsburg, Deborah Gutierrez, Kelli Lyndaker, Erin MacDonald, Ken Moehringer, Raymond Pierce, Elizabeth Rialdi, Kirsten Siegenthaler, Jessica Simmons, Kimberly Smith, and Dr. Shu-Kuang Tai. Guests:, Stephanie Bugos- Measurement Incorporated, Kayla Bogdanowicz, Reid, McNally & Savage, LLC: Debra Collette, New York State Education Department Office of Professions; Grace Dawson- New York State Association of County Health Officials; Brad Hutton- Hutton Health Consultants/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services; Pamela Madeiros- New York State Alliance for Children with Special Needs; and Jana Vitale- Children’s Speech and Rehabilitation Therapy/Agencies for Children’s Therapy Services. 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>	X	Heidi Bond	X	Leah Esther Lax	X	Raymond Bowman	X	Lidiya Lednyak	X	Bonnie Catlin	X	Tracy Lyman	X	Victoria Collins	X	Shelbi McIlroy (Rochester)	X	Joy Connolly	X	Emily Mondschein (Rochester)	X	Timothy Conway	X	Julie Opalecky	X	Cheryl Schaefer Coppola (Rochester)	X	Lynn Shea (Rochester)	X	Carlo Cuccaro (Rochester)	--	Robin Stegman	X	Brigitte Desport (Brooklyn)	X	Angella Timothy	X	Amy DeVito	X	Elina Tsenter	X	Katie Heath (Rochester)	X	Marina Yoegel	X	Steve Held	--	Patricia Zuber-Wilson	--	Jordan Kase			
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Welcome Approval of Minutes	Marina Yoegel, Council Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:23 am and thanked Council members for attending the Early Intervention Coordinating Council meeting. The next full Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 10:15 am to 3:00 pm. The next Task Forces meeting will be held on Thursday, August 6, 2026, from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Marina Yoegel informed the Council that the minutes from the March 11, 2026, meeting were emailed to them. A motion was made by Steve Held and a second by Victoria Collins to approve the March 11, 2026, meeting minutes. Seventeen (17) members voted in-favor, none opposed, and one (1) abstained. The motion passed.	• The next full Council meeting will be on 9/16/2026. • The next Task Forces meeting will be on 8/6/2026.																																																				
New Business Bureau Administrative Updates	Raymond Pierce Director, Bureau of Early Intervention, provided updates on the following items: • The Department of Education sent out a press release announcing the partnership between the Office of Special Education Programs. • The Secretary of Education announced that \$144 million was to be allocated to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B and C in the 2026 grant awards. Part C received a total of \$20.5 million, and of that, New York State received \$942,000.	• Bureau Administrative updates will be provided at the 9/16/2026, meeting.																																																				

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<i>Vice-Chairperson Vote</i> <i>Open Discussion</i> <i>Qualified Personnel Presentation</i>	• The Annual Performance Report showed that after four years of meets expectations, we've moved to needs assistance this year due to lower scores with child outcomes. The Bureau plans to have meetings with the federal government about the report and work on that determination outcome. Local determinations will be sent out on June 22nd. There will be a statewide webinar on July 23rd to review program year 2024-2025, state and local determinations, and focusing on the 2025-2026 data cleaning for the Annual Performance Report that's due February 2nd, 2027. • The Covered Lives assessment was extended through 2029. • The Bureau is continuing to work on the 4% rate modifier and analyzing eligibility criteria data along with input from the counties. The Bureau will be updating the list of zip codes. • In April, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved the Medicaid State Plan Amendment for the 5% rate increase. The initial 5% retroactive escrow was paid to New York City providers on June 11th with a second installment to be paid to Part C providers on June 24th. For the rest of the state, the first installment will be paid to providers on June 24th, and the second Installment will be paid on July 8th. • The Bureau had a stakeholder call on June 3rd, and the Public Consulting Group did a demo of the Individualized Family Service Plan functionality. Feedback was received on the newly developed standardized statewide intake form. • The Bureau has been working on updating guidance documents including evaluation assessment and eligibility, the billable and non-billable service coordination activities, and assistive technology. The Bureau is also working with Measurement Inc.to produce content trainings, and self-paced trainings. • The Bureau will be making changes to the Down Syndrome Page on website • The graduate program approval process is being implemented. A communication was sent out to the field on May 1st. • Council members may submit their recommendations for next year's budget to the Bureau director to pass along to the Early Education Advisory Council. • Due Process will be moved to Civil Rights.	• The Bureau plans to have meetings with the federal government about the performance report and work on the determination outcome. • The Bureau will provide further information this summer on next steps for the 4% rate modifier. • The Bureau will update the Down Syndrome information on the website. • The Bureau Director will provide feedback from the Council regarding the state budget to the Early Education Advisory Council.
	The Council members should submit their ballots for the Vice-Chairperson to the Council support team.	
	The Council voted on sending a letter to the federal government expressing concerns about moving the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to Health and Human Services and Due Process to Civil Rights. A motion was made by Steve Held and a second by Lidiya Lednyak to approve. Seventeen (17) voted in-favor, none opposed, and three (3) abstained. The motion passed. The Council voted on sending the Bureau director their recommendations to pass along to the Early Education Advisory Council. A motion was made by Steve Held and a second by Leah Esther Lax to approve. Nineteen (19) voted in-favor, none opposed, and one (1) abstained. The motion passed. Kelli Lyndaker, Unit Manager, and Erin MacDonald from the Provider Approval, Due Process, and Monitoring Unit, provided information on a field communication sent from the Bureau on June 17th regarding qualified personnel in the early intervention program, including a guidance document and documentation requirements. A second communication was sent on June 18th regarding the delivery of special instruction services and applied behavior analysis, and guidance on authorizing services related to special instruction.	

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New York State Department of Education Applied Behavior Analysis (<i>action item from 9/2025</i>)	Debra Collette, Associate in Professional Education, New York State Education Department, provided information on the laws, regulations, and guidance for New York State licensure for applied behavior analysis.	
Lunch Break		
Report of Department Activities <i>Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Update</i> 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>	Elizabeth Rialdi, Program Coordinator, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program provided a Program update. 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 Paula Van Meter and Lauren Zelinsky from the Public Consulting Group.	• An Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program update will be provided at the 9/16/2026, meeting. • Task Force updates will be given at the 9/16/2026, meeting. • An update on the EI-Hub and State Fiscal updates will be given at the 9/16/2026, meeting.
Report of Department Activities (continued) <i>Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update</i>	Ken Moehringer, Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit provided the Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update	• A Fiscal Agent Payment Data Update will be given at the 9/16/2026, meeting.
Public Comment	Jana Vitale and Grace Dawson commented on EI-Hub issues	
Future Agenda Items	• The Bureau to provide data with eligibility rate with new regulations on the Multidisciplinary Evaluation and previous Core Plus 4 (supplementals). • Invite Speaker Adrienne Adams to a future Council meeting. • Discuss the fiscal impact of HR-1 Medicaid enrollment and re-enrollment changes in early intervention.	• The Bureau will reach out to Speaker Adams' office.
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned by Marina Yoegel at 2:57 p.m.	