



Department
of Health

RATE SETTING METHODOLOGY TASK FORCE UPDATE

**STEVEN HELD, MEd, CAGS, SDA
COUNCIL AND TASK FORCE CHAIR**

**EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026 | EMPIRE STATE PLAZA | ALBANY, NY**

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Chairperson: Steven Held
- Parents: Leah Esther Lax and Amy DeVito
- Personnel Prep or Training: Brigitte Desport
- Discretionary: Lidiya Lednyak
- Municipal Representatives: Heidi Bond and Marina Yoegel
- State Agency: Raymond Bowman
- Provider: Julie Opalecky

RATE SETTING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Initial and Ongoing Service Coordination

- a) The Bureau of Early Intervention will re-visit their old proposal for changing Service Coordination into a monthly bundled rate.
- b) Documentation requirements from years ago may have been too complicated, and the new “Health Home” program may be a model that could guide required components of the bundled rate.
- c) There may be a need to differentiate the rates for Initial Service Coordination and Ongoing Service Coordination.
- d) Consideration for a more robust bundled rate should be discussed for children in foster care and protective services and emergency housing (there will be other populations as well).



RATE SETTING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Future Discussions

- Discussion on early intervention rates which may align with 4 regions as opposed to the current 16 regions of New York State.
 - a) The Bureau will provide data for this compression in future meetings.
 - b) We will present a motion for this suggestion to the Council today.

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Medicaid Revenue Downturn

- The Bureau is looking at the billables for Medicaid and analyzing where it may have failed to capture past Medicaid revenue.

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Discussion on Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Billing in 15-Minute Increments

- a. This may not be available if our institutional rate would prohibit us from this change. For instance, our rates have many components built into our fee for service approved by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rate structure.
- b. We will look to invite a Virginia early intervention representative to a future meeting. Virginia does bill in 15-minute increments. Montana is another state that has recently evaluated their rate methodology. Hopefully, the Bureau can engage a representative from both states.

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Travel Rates

- Virginia has 15-minute travel rates.
 - We will be exploring this as a standalone “service option”.

RATE SETTING TASK FORCE UPDATE

Rate Study

- The Bureau is open to a rate study. I will ask the Council to support this study and forward a motion to the New York State Department of Health Commissioner James McDonald for his consideration for inclusion in his budget requests for the next State fiscal year.

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New Discussion Topic

- Understanding and offering feedback to the Bureau's analysis of the cost of pendency (3 and out).

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Questions



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