

**NYSACHO Family Health Committee Meeting
January 14th, 2024**

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome	Molly Fleming, NYSACHO Senior Program Manager, introduces call.
Regional EI/Preschool Coalitions Report Out	<p>DECCO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No initial updates were available; discussion was deferred until later in the meeting. <p>EIP West:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janice Jenosheck from Niagara County reported that no new updates were available as the next meeting is scheduled for March. <p>CEIPAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised regarding the new teletherapy rate addendum, which introduced a reduction in reimbursement rates. Discussion around insurance verification requirements under the Hub, now mandating service coordination confirmation every three months. Issues related to the transition process for IFSPs were highlighted, with counties seeking clarity on whether to extend or create new IFSPs. Reports of duplicate provider payments, which could impact counties' billing processes and escrow balances. Billing and claiming processes have significantly increased in duration, now taking approximately 90 days instead of the previous 45-day timeframe. The Hub continues to present operational challenges, requiring staff to work overtime to keep up with changes. <p>Pivotal Public Health Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chasa Petroski noted that December's meeting focused on updating manuals, with the next meeting scheduled for the following day. Discussions were expected to continue regarding manual updates and Hub-related issues. <p>DECO (Revisited)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donna Bogin and Lydia Ledmiak raised concerns about preschool rate-setting processes. Discussion on the limited distribution of a rate-setting survey in September, which did not reach all relevant providers or stakeholders. Need for clarity on rate-setting methodology and implications for Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs). It was proposed that representatives from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) present survey results and future plans to the committee. <p>Preschool Rate Setting Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee identified a lack of transparency in the rate-setting process.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janice Jenosheck suggested that Suzanne Bolling from NYSED be invited to clarify the methodology and provide updates on the survey results. The committee agreed to reach out to Suzanne Bolling and Nell Brady to facilitate discussions on rate setting and Medicaid-related issues.
Summary	<p>Early Intervention State Plan Amendment (SPA) Discussion</p> <p>Grace Dawson provided an update on the SPA submitted to CMS on December 31. The committee had previously approved NYSACHO’s advocacy position on this matter. Key concerns include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in telehealth reimbursement rates, which could disproportionately affect families relying on remote services. Lack of inclusion of a 4% rate increase for rural and underserved areas, as was agreed upon in the 2024-25 budget. Need for clarification on the funding breakdown, Medicaid shares, and implementation timeline. <p>Requests to NYSDOH:</p> <p>The committee outlined five key asks in its letter to NYSDOH, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explanation of how telehealth rate reductions were calculated and whether they solely reflect transportation cost adjustments. A minimum three-month notice period for counties to prepare for any rate changes. Defined reconciliation processes for retroactive rate adjustments. Clarification on group service billing modifications. Timeline and implementation details for the 4% rate modifier for rural and underserved areas. <p>The committee further discussed the importance of uncoupling the telehealth rate reduction from the 5% in-person service increase, emphasizing the need for sustainable investment in early intervention services.</p> <p>EI Hub Concerns and Financial Issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal Workgroup Formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYSACHO previously submitted a list of top concerns to NYSDOH regarding the EI Hub, with an emphasis on financial issues. The committee emphasized the urgency of forming a dedicated fiscal workgroup to address county-specific financial challenges. Concerns were raised about counties advancing payments to providers, with New York City alone advancing nearly \$10 million. Duplicate Payments and Escrow Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from counties indicate that some providers received duplicate payments due to escrow and Medicaid claim processing errors. Janice Jenosheck noted that PCG identified issues with voided claims and provided partial corrections. The committee recommended a thorough reconciliation of claims to ensure accurate fiscal management. Provider Billing and Payment Delays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about providers failing to submit billing claims while continuing to receive advances.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The committee recommended tying provider payments to evidence of billing submission in the Hub. <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Ravenhall will follow up with NYSDOH on the formation of the fiscal workgroup. • Counties will conduct further analysis to determine the extent of duplicate payments and financial discrepancies. • NYSACHO will engage with NYSAC to raise awareness of fiscal concerns at the county level. <p>EI Hub Efficiency Proposals</p> <p>The committee has developed three proposals to improve EI Hub functionality:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Referral and Family Panel Consolidation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposal to merge child and family screens to reduce system navigation time and improve workflow efficiency. 2. Service Authorization Process Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommendations to streamline service authorization screens, reducing the number of clicks required to complete an authorization. 3. Amendment Process Adjustments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lifting unnecessary edit requirements to expedite amendment approvals and reduce administrative burdens. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members were asked to review the proposals and provide feedback by Friday morning. • The next set of proposals will focus on IFSP screens and transition processes. • The final documents will be submitted to NYSDOH for review and consideration.
Adjournment	<i>The next Family Health Committee Call is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 11:00am.</i>



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Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

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