

## **Family Health Committee Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **1. Regional EI and Preschool Coalitions Report**

- Coalition Meetings Update:
    - Instead of reviewing coalition reports individually, Grace asked if any coalitions had met since the last meeting and if there were any updates.
    - Pivotal has a meeting on Friday; members were encouraged to bring topics for discussion in April.
- 

### **2. EI Fiscal Workgroup Meeting Update**

- First Meeting: February 25th
  - Key Topics Discussed:
    - Transportation Issues: Ongoing problems related to logistics and funding.
    - Stopgap Payments: Increase in payments from the state with no clear guidance on recoupment.
    - Holding the State Accountable: Participants emphasized the need to push the State for clarity and action.
  - Action Items:
    - Sharing Meeting Notes: Grace shared the meeting notes in the chat and will send them out in follow-up communications.
    - Ongoing Advocacy: Encouragement to stay engaged to ensure the fiscal discussions continue.
    - Balancing Calls: There was a discussion on ensuring fiscal issues are addressed in the proper meetings without redundancy.
- 

### **3. NYS DOH Public Notice on State Plan Amendment (4% Modifier for Rural Areas)**

- Proposal Details:
  - Effective April 1, 2025, a 4% modifier will be added to reimbursement rates for early intervention services in underserved and rural areas to address provider shortages.
  - Estimated increase to Medicaid expenditures: \$1 million annually.
- Discussion:
  - Positive Development: The proposal aligns with previous commitments.
  - Definition of Rural & Underserved: Likely to follow the methodology recommended by EICC based on zip codes.
  - Open Questions:
    - Will service coordination be included?
    - How will in-person services be determined versus telehealth?
    - Will it cover evaluations?
- Action Items:
  - Monitor the amendment process. The official document has not been posted yet but will be shared when available.
  - Prepare to submit public comments once full details are released.



#### **4. EI Rate Study Bill Updates**

- Legislative Update:
    - Assemblymember Paulin's office proposed changes to the EI Rate Study Bill (A283).
    - Key Amendments:
      - Independent Entity: Instead of BEI conducting the study, an independent third party will be contracted.
      - Expanded Scope:
        - Includes in-person vs. telehealth service delivery.
        - Examines family grievance procedures.
        - Considers enhanced rates/modifiers for underserved areas.
        - Looks at access to and costs of technology.
      - Extended Timeline: From 1 year to 2 years (due to procurement processes).
      - Stakeholder Input: Adds municipalities/local health departments to the list of required participants.
  - Committee Feedback:
    - General Support with proposed amendments.
    - Concerns:
      - The timeline extension could delay necessary reforms.
      - The need for transparency in who conducts the study.
    - Action Item:
      - Confirm Support for the Bill: NYSACHO will recommend continued support with the proposed amendments.
- 

#### **5. Legislative Advocacy and Budget Updates**

- Recent Legislative Meetings:
    - Governor's Office Meeting: A 55-minute meeting with state policy staff, which is unusually long and shows a high level of interest in EI issues.
    - Key Legislative Focus Areas:
      - EI Hub System Issues: Strong concern among legislators about software flaws delaying services.
      - County Escrow & Covered Lives Funding: Localities losing expected revenue due to state retention.
      - Stopgap Payment Transparency: Need for a clear schedule for fund disbursements.
  - Upcoming Actions:
    - Monitor Budget Bills: There is a proposed increase for EI funding in the one-house bills, but details are unclear.
    - Continue Advocacy for Provider Payments and EI System Fixes.
- 

#### **6. EI Hub System Issues & Support Calls**

- Statewide Technical Assistance Calls Ending in March:
  - Issues:
    - Calls have been ineffective due to a lack of real-time Q&A.



- Providers need more one-on-one support.
    - Many issues require lengthy back-end research.
  - Recommendations Given to the State:
    - QA-focused sessions instead of generic updates.
    - Regional meetings for localized support.
    - Breakout rooms for discussing confidential data.
  - Next Steps:
    - The State is reassessing its support approach and will provide updates soon.
    - New survey coming to collect data on delays and ticket resolution issues.
- 

## **7. EI Hub Consolidation Recommendations**

- Municipal Feedback Process:
    - Almost all recommended changes have been submitted to the state except for transition and transfer workflows.
    - Next Steps:
      - The State will review each recommendation and classify them as short-term, long-term, or infeasible.
      - March Meeting: Follow-up call with BEI and PCG to discuss feasibility.
  - Challenges:
    - BEI and PCG were not ready to address municipality concerns at the last meeting.
    - Delays in implementation discussions caused frustration among stakeholders.
  - Key Takeaways:
    - Progress is slow, but municipalities are unified in their requests.
    - A follow-up meeting with BEI/PCG is scheduled for early April.
- 

## **8. Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- EI/CYSHCN Statewide Meeting:
    - April 9-10, 2024
    - Registration closes March 25th.
  - Next Committee Meeting:
    - Currently scheduled for April 8th.
    - Potential Conflict: Due to travel for the EI/CYSHCN meeting. Members will discuss rescheduling.
- 

## **9. Open Discussion & Next Steps**

- Additional Topics Raised:
  - Transparency in Funding: How to ensure counties receive the funds they are owed.
  - Advocating for Legislative Changes: Possible amendments to Covered Lives legislation to ensure fair distribution.
  - Need for More State Engagement: Ensuring BEI and PCG address municipality concerns promptly.
- Action Items:
  - Monitor the budget process and advocate for additional funding.
  - Track the EI Hub improvements and push for effective provider support.



- Finalize recommendations for system streamlining in the next meeting.
- Review rescheduling options for the next committee meeting.

---

**Conclusion**

- Meeting adjourned with action items to follow up on key legislative and system-related advocacy efforts.
- NYSACHO will continue to track funding, system changes, and advocacy efforts for the EI program.

CONFIDENTIAL



## Participants

Name	Email
Alyssa Arlen	aarlen@washingtoncountyny.gov
Anthony Faciane	afaciane@health.nyc.gov
Ashley Waite	ashleywaite@lewiscounty.ny.gov
Barbara Wallace	bwallace@greenecountyny.gov
Caroline Hussey	caroline.hussey@schenectadycountyny.gov
Chersti Kuhlmann	ckuhlmann@co.seneca.ny.us
Deborah Krenzer-Lewter	deborah.krenzer-lewter@orleanscountyny.gov
Diane Devlin	ddevlin@waynecountyny.gov
Donna Bogin	bogind@co.rockland.ny.us
Elizabeth Borst	eborst@co.seneca.ny.us
Erik Mastrianni	mastriannie@warrencountyny.gov
Hannah Busman	hannah.busman@franklincountyny.gov
Jacob Stewart	jstewart@fultoncountyny.gov
Janice Jenosheck	janice.jenosheck@niagaracounty.com
Janine Fitzmaurice	jfitzmaurice@dutchessny.gov
Jessica Clark Manderville	jclark@tompkins-co.org
Kate Ott	kate.ott@ontariocountyny.gov
Katee Padbury	kpadbury@cortlandcountyny.gov
Kelly Kircher	kkircher@greenecountyny.gov
Kelly Ralph	kelly.ralph@suffolkcountyny.gov
Kelsey Medick	kmedick@saratogacountyny.gov
Kerry VanAuken	kvanauken@waynecountyny.gov
Len Claus (Rensselaer)	lclaus@rensco.com
Lidiya Lednyak	llednyak@health.nyc.gov
Linda BEERS	linda.beers@essexcountyny.gov
Lisa Perfetti	lperfetti@cortlandcountyny.gov
Lucianna Celotti	lucianna.celotti@essexcountyny.gov
Lynette Bellmore	lynette.bellmore@broomecountyny.gov
Mary Jane Manning	maryjane.manning@franklincountyny.gov
Meghan Sedorus	msedorus@cayugacounty.us
Melanie Miller	millerm@tiogacountyny.gov
Mercy Williams	mwilliams@co.montgomery.ny.us
Michaelah Townley	mtownley@saratogacountyny.gov
Natalie Prehoda	natalie.prehoda@schenectadycountyny.gov
Renae Johnson	rejohnson@stlawco.gov
Roxana Inscho	rinscho@monroecounty.gov
Shannon Traver	straver@washingtoncountyny.gov
Sherry Crisafulli	sherry.crisafulli@oswegocounty.com
Tammy Finger	tfingar@yatescounty.org