



Family Health Committee Meeting April 8th, 2025

Regional EI and Preschool Coalition Updates

- EI West met but no attendees at the meeting could report back.
- ECCO has an upcoming meeting and will report at the next committee session.
- No updates were shared from DECO, Pivotal, or CPAC.

EI Fiscal Workgroup and Stopgap Agreement

- The workgroup has been meeting, but participants expressed frustration with slow progress and limited resolution on raised issues.
- The provider stopgap agreement was discussed:
 - Deadlines from the agreement (e.g., March) may not be enforced.
 - Counties may be out of compliance, and there's lack of clarity from the State.
 - Lydia and Anthony suggested NYSACHO may need to pressure the State to revisit the escrow agreement due to ambiguity and inconsistencies.

Escrow Interest Concerns

- Anthony revealed counties' escrow funds are being "swept for short-term investments" by the State.
- There's concern over transparency and ownership of accrued interest.
- NYSACHO will follow up with the State and consider raising this at a future meeting.

Provider Billing Compliance

- Ongoing concern that some providers are not billing as required, violating agreement terms.
- Grace Dawson confirmed no update from the State despite earlier follow-up.
- NYSACHO will push for a formal provider list showing who has started billing.

Strategy and Next Steps

- Sarah Ravenhall suggested submitting questions to both BEI and DOB for clarification.
- Lydia and Anthony will draft language for further communication, while Grace and Sarah continue follow-up with BEI and lobbyists.

EI Hub Consolidation Recommendations

- Lydia reported that recommendations were consolidated and sent to BEI and PCG.
- A meeting is scheduled for April 21 to review recommendations item by item and request implementation timelines or justifications for unaddressed items.

Assistive Technology Delays

- Multiple counties (Monroe, NYC, Suffolk, Cayuga) are facing serious delays in assistive technology approvals.
- Only one person (Cherie Sinclair) at the State level is managing AT and escalated EI Hub issues, causing statewide backlogs.
- Equipment delivery can take 4+ months.

- Some counties are considering escalating the issue to the Commissioner or addressing it on an all-county call to amplify concerns.

El Hub System Failures

- Counties expressed continued system failures, data errors, unresolved tickets, and duplicate work due to unresolved migration issues.
- Monthly regional meetings have been requested since November but not honored.
- NYSACHO members described:
 - Inability to close IFSPs.
 - Delays preventing provider payments.
 - Tickets marked resolved without actual fixes.
 - Poor communication using ticket numbers instead of case IDs.
- There's a demand for:
 - Issue tracking transparency.
 - Better meeting agendas at a higher operational level.
 - Resending participation info to counties who've stopped receiving invites.
- Sarah and others are advocating for a direct meeting with BEI leadership and possibly involving other State representatives (like Kirsten).

Telehealth Rate Modifications

- Lydia provided a recap of the BEI telehealth rate presentation:
 - Recoupment may begin before SPA approval.
 - Telehealth rate reductions also apply to evaluations, not just services.
 - Requests were made for:
 - Breakdowns of recoupment amounts by county.
 - A revised telehealth rate schedule.
 - Clarification on bilingual add-ons and hybrid evaluations.
 - Clear guidance on consent forms linked to changing service authorization numbers.
- Sarah will raise these points again at BEI's statewide presentation.

Open Discussion

- Escrow Invoice Errors: NYC noted recent errors in escrow invoices with unexplained negative numbers—other counties confirmed similar problems.
- Hub Discussion at Statewide Meeting: Donna and others requested to raise Hub issues during BEI's general update at the upcoming statewide meeting. Sarah encouraged respectful, clear advocacy during that session.
- Form Functionality Issues: Newly released BEI forms (transition/insurance) are not saving filled data or syncing fields—Sarah will escalate the request for technical fixes.

Next Steps and Support

- NYSACHO reaffirmed support for local agencies and committed to escalating concerns, especially regarding the Hub and fiscal issues.



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- Members were encouraged to bring concerns directly to BEI at the upcoming statewide meeting and share any feedback or updates.

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