

## **Family Health Committee Meeting May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **Welcome/Introductions**

- Grace Dawson opened the meeting and thanked participants.
- No formal introductions were recorded.

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### **Regional EI/Preschool Coalitions Report Out**

- Grace opened the floor for coalition updates, noting a new format where not every group is called on individually.
- No updates were provided, possibly due to the coalitions not meeting recently.
- Attendees were reminded to bring forward issues from coalition meetings for future discussion.

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### **Fiscal Workgroup Report Out**

- Lydia Lednyak and Janice Jenosheck provided key updates, including:
  - Escrow Agreement Revisions: The NYSDOH agreed to consider proposed provisions, which the workgroup will draft and circulate for input.
  - Covered Lives Methodology: Counties requested written documentation from BEI on how covered lives are calculated. BEI has not confirmed they will provide this yet.
  - Stopgap Payment Concerns: NYSDOH is expected to provide clarity on repayment schedules and plans soon.
- **Communication Issues with PCG:**
  - Concerns were raised about the lack of responsiveness, unresolved tickets, and inconsistent PCG representatives.
  - NYSDOH suggested using “office hours” for one-on-one support, but counties noted they rarely received responses after signing up.
  - Recommendations included always copying BEI (especially Kirsten Sigenthaler and Jessica Simmons) on unresolved issues to elevate concerns.
- **Statute of Limitations & Fiscal Clarity:**
  - Janice expressed frustration about a lack of clear timelines for EI claims processing, unlike preschool.
  - She requested documentation mirroring preschool’s AVLs to support county fiscal planning.
  - Concerns were raised about the expectation that counties know their proportion of state costs, with multiple members expressing confusion over how to calculate this.
- **Assistive Technology (ATD) Issues:**
  - Counties reported delays, lack of confirmation, and lost paperwork related to ATD requests.
  - PCG was criticized for failing to follow their own guidance, such as providing competitive pricing within 2 days.
  - Medicaid denial processes were reportedly dragging on for months, delaying county reimbursement and ATD delivery.



- **Suggested Action:**

- A formal letter outlining concerns and proposed timelines for resolution was proposed, to hold NYSDOH and PCG accountable with clear expectations and deadlines.

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### **El Hub Consolidation Recommendations**

- Lydia noted that while NYSDOH claimed to take the recommendations seriously, little progress had been made.
- PCG is reportedly planning to prioritize county requests once major system changes supporting rate modifications roll out by end of May.
- A subgroup may be formed to engage with BEI/PCG to refine and rank recommendations.

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### **El Hub – Standard Muni Reports in the El Hub**

- PCG requested that counties provide:
  - Variables needed for standard reports
  - Preferred timeframes (3 months, 6 months, 1 year, etc.)
- A preliminary draft from DECO counties is being circulated for broader committee feedback.

### **Additional El Hub Concerns Raised:**

- **Data Requests:** Counties reported being asked for data already available in the Hub.
  - These requests were largely tied to foster care status and family outcome surveys.
  - Data migration issues were cited as causing many errors.
- **Insurance Checkbox:** Participants requested disabling the recurring insurance checkbox prompt, which contradicts the guidance of needing updates only every 6 months.
- **Ongoing Systemic Frustrations:**
  - Tickets are marked resolved without actual fixes.
  - Counties must restart issue explanations with every new PCG rep.
  - The Hub's billing features remain unreliable.
- **Inadequate Office Hours:**
  - Some counties received appointments but found the reps lacked sufficient knowledge to address billing.
  - Others never received a response to appointment requests.

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### **Preschool Rate Modification**

- Lydia flagged that DECO is collecting municipal questions for SED about their rate-setting methodology.
- A feedback request will be circulated to ensure counties can weigh in before final recommendations are made.
- NYSACHO is also attempting to coordinate future meetings with SED to discuss these reforms.

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### **Open Discussion**

- Ending EI at Age 3:



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- Heidi Bond raised a potential policy discussion regarding the possibility of ending EI services strictly at age 3.
  - The idea would aim to reduce costs and increase provider availability.
  - This topic will be included in the next meeting agenda for further discussion.
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**Next Steps and Follow-Up Items**

- NYSACHO leadership (Grace, Lydia, Diane) will:
  - Draft a formal letter summarizing key fiscal and ATD concerns.
  - Distribute preschool rate-setting questions and EI Hub muni report templates for member feedback.
  - Follow up with BEI and PCG regarding accountability and unresolved issues.
  - Prepare to revisit EI age-out discussion at the next meeting.

## Participants

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