

Family Health Committee Meeting Notes

June 10th, 2025 – 11:00am to 12:00pm

Committee Chairs – Lidiya Lednyak

Staff Liaison – Grace Dawson

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome/Introductions	Molly Fleming opened the meeting, followed by remarks from Sarah Ravenhall. Sarah acknowledged Diane's transition off the NYSACHO Board and her prior co-chair role, thanking her for her leadership. Lydia will continue leading the committee and coordinate with the Board to appoint a new Board Director co-chair. Sarah also recognized Heidi Bond's recent appointment as NYSACHO President (effective June 1), emphasizing her active engagement with the committee and EICC.
Regional EI/Preschool Coalitions Report Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECHO (Eastern Coalition): Last met on April 24; discussed EI Hub and consolidation recommendations, and potential use of supplemental funding. Next meeting scheduled for July 10. • CPAC: Scheduled to meet in July. • No additional updates were offered from DECO or PIVOTAL.
Fiscal Workgroup Report Out	<p>Anthony Faciane and Lidiya Lednyak reported slow movement on resolving fiscal challenges with the State, prompting local stakeholders to take independent action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter was drafted to the Division of Budget (DOB) requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Adherence to the stopgap payment schedule (notably the July 23 recoupment start date). ◦ Permission for counties to claim State aid immediately. ◦ A full plan to address EI billing system issues by May 31 (note: that deadline passed with no State response). • There was discussion about the misallocation of \$5M of the \$40M "covered lives" funding, which was reportedly redirected to Medicaid/HIPRA. This sparked frustration, as municipalities were initially told they would receive the full amount. • Lydia proposed drafting language to amend covered lives statute—split \$20M to municipalities, \$20M to State—with backing from Assemblymember Paulin anticipated, though a gubernatorial veto is likely. • Broad support was voiced from municipalities, and NYSACHO will help circulate language for committee feedback.
EI Hub Consolidation Recommendations	Lidiya reported positive recent engagement with SDOH and PCG, who provided feedback on the committee's recommendations. The State intends to send a prioritized list of changes with timelines and will schedule further discussions on implementation.
3 is 3 – EI Age Out	<p>Discussion focused on whether children should age out of EI at 3 years old (New York is currently the only state that allows children to stay past their third birthday).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heidi Bond suggested this change might help free up provider capacity. • Chasa Petroski, Angela Stuart Palmer, and others noted that many providers work in both EI and preschool, so shifting children may not improve capacity. In some areas, preschool has even worse shortages. • Marina Yoegel shared that Westchester County is conducting a detailed cost and capacity analysis comparing children who stayed in EI past age 3 with what they



	<p>would have received under CPSE. The methodology focuses on comparing services like speech, OT, PT, special instruction, and transportation. Findings are still pending but initial results suggest that EI may sometimes cost more than preschool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broad consensus acknowledged the importance of presenting the Westchester data once finalized.• Additional themes included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Concerns about children aging out of EI without receiving preschool services due to capacity issues.○ Frustration with children receiving long-term EI services despite scoring within normal limits on preschool evaluations.○ General agreement that the preschool system needs reform and that State Education and school districts should shoulder more responsibility.○ Idea that forcing transitions at age 3 might shift accountability and advocacy pressures to the school districts and highlight unmet service needs more clearly.
EICC Workforce Capacity Taskforce Updates	<p>Lidiya provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A partnered academic review revealed that most professional licensing and certification processes lack EI-specific training or fieldwork requirements.• A letter was sent to SED advocating for changes to these professional standards.• SED responded and agreed to a meeting to explore these issues further.• NYSACHO and partners may be asked to express formal support.• Chasa noted that some academic programs and models (e.g., RISE) already prepare students for EI work, but more State-wide coordination and dissemination are needed.• Discussion included developing micro-credentialing or CEUs for professionals transitioning into EI and helping them meet the 1,000-hour requirement.
EI Telehealth	<p>Due to time constraints, this item was tabled and will be added to next month's agenda.</p>
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah shared that she and NYSACHO's lobbyist met with the Governor's health policy team. They were asked: "If the sky's the limit, what's one major change you'd want for EI?" The committee is encouraged to think boldly and bring forward ideas.• NYSACHO is also scheduling follow-up quarterly meetings with SED to improve coordination and accountability around preschool service delivery.• Valerie Kurtz shared a local initiative to integrate children into UPK programs as an alternative to 8:1:2 or 12:1:2 placements, emphasizing long-term benefits for children and potential fiscal efficiency.• The meeting ended with mutual gratitude for everyone's input and a plan to revisit telehealth and "3 is 3" in future discussions.

Participants

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