

Family Health Committee Meeting Notes

July 8th, 2025 – 11:00am to 12:00pm

Committee Chairs – Lidiya Lednyak

Staff Liaison – Grace Dawson

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome/Introductions	Grace Dawson opened the meeting and initiated the agenda, inviting updates from the regional Early Intervention (EI) and Preschool Coalitions.
Regional EI/Preschool Coalitions Report Out	<p>CPAC and DECOS meetings are scheduled for later in July; updates will be shared at the next NYSACHO meeting.</p> <p>EIP West met and hosted Project RISE from Nazareth College, which presented on coursework designed to prepare individuals for early childhood roles. Counties provided feedback, and Project RISE is considering future provider training to ease the burden on counties for onboarding independent EI providers.</p>
Fiscal Workgroup Report Out	<p>Notes from the most recent workgroup were distributed.</p> <p>BEI is interested in developing fiscal training, particularly around claiming and vouchering. Lidiya suggested surveying the broader committee (not just fiscal members) to gather input on training needs.</p> <p>NYSACHO scheduled an August 6 meeting with the Department of Budget to follow up on issues raised in an earlier letter, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered lives • State aid claims against stopgap payments • Medicaid retroactive payments
EI Hub Consolidation Recommendations	<p>BEI provided written responses to NYSACHO's EI Hub consolidation recommendations.</p> <p>Lidiya flagged that many responses lack completion timelines (only listing start dates) and do not sufficiently address county priorities.</p> <p>Members were asked to review BEI's responses and contribute feedback identifying unacceptable or inadequate items.</p> <p>A formal follow-up is planned with BEI to push for clarifications and implementation.</p> <p>A new targeted municipal user acceptance testing (UAT) group is being formed—NYSACHO will request a participant list and meeting schedule.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about BEI's rejection of an "approve all" feature in the IFSP module, which counties say would significantly reduce workload. Lidiya will formally request data from PCG on the time required to complete various EI Hub processes.</p>
4410 Preschool Application	Essex County shared frustrations with delays in the NYSED preschool application process for public schools.



	<p>Despite a previously discussed “fast-track” promise from the State, one district submitted its application in May and still has not received approval to open in September.</p> <p>Local leaders emphasized that the district has pre-K experience, yet approval is stalled due to bureaucratic hurdles (e.g., duplicative ADA or whistleblower policy documentation).</p> <p>Janice and Chasa from other counties reported faster experiences due to helpful regional reps (notably Tammy Ann Sweeney). However, counties without such support are facing delays and inconsistent guidance.</p> <p>NYSACHO confirmed that quarterly meetings with NYSED are starting (first call: August 21). This issue will be raised, along with the possibility of creating a district-facing "cheat sheet" or crosswalk to clarify application requirements.</p>
EI Telehealth	<p>Concerns were reiterated about BEI’s decision to reduce telehealth rates without linking them to increased in-person rates.</p> <p>Lidiya emphasized the risk this poses to provider capacity and long-term sustainability.</p>
EI State Plan Amendment (SPA) – 4% Modifier	<p>BEI submitted a new State Plan Amendment to Medicaid for a 4% rate modifier for in-person EI services in underserved and rural areas.</p> <p>Criteria for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Underserved = zip codes where poverty exceeds 15% (or 20% in NYC/Long Island)• Rural = zip codes with less than 25% (or 15% downstate) urban population• Zip codes with above-average wait times to initiate services may also qualify <p>Modifier applies only to in-person services (e.g., speech, OT/PT, special instruction).</p> <p>The number of qualifying zip codes will be capped at 280 due to budget constraints.</p> <p>NYSACHO will push for publication of zip code lists and clarification of implementation timelines and reassessment plans.</p> <p>Discussion touched on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need for enhanced rate awareness to support provider recruitment• Clarification that the modifier follows the child’s residence, not service location• Provider concerns that delivering services in certain community spaces may be reclassified as “facility-based,” reducing reimbursement
Transition Timelines	<p>Not explicitly discussed under this label in the transcript, but concerns around delays in implementation timelines for both EI Hub and preschool applications were raised in other agenda areas.</p>
Open Discussion	<p>Members expressed frustration with inconsistent BEI and NYSED processes and communication.</p> <p>Calls were made for greater clarity, transparency, and support for local providers and districts navigating complex administrative hurdles.</p>



	Grace encouraged members to send agenda items for the August 21 NYSED call, especially regarding 4410 issues, preschool transportation, and OCFS/SED regulation alignment.
Closing	The next Family Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12 th , 2025 at 11:00am.

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Participants

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