

## Family Health Committee Meeting Notes

### November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 11:00am to 12:00pm

**Committee Chairs – Lidiya Lednyak**

**Staff Liaison – Grace Dawson**

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>Welcome/Introductions</b>	Grace Dawson opened the meeting, thanked participants and Lydia as committee chair, reviewed housekeeping reminders regarding muting practices, chat use, and that the meeting was recorded for note-taking purposes.
<b>Regional EI/Preschool Coalitions Report Out</b>	Grace invited updates from regional coalitions, but most groups had not met since the last committee meeting. Grace indicated updates will resume at the December meeting, and any updates missed during the call can be shared via email or chat.
<b>CYSHCN Contracts</b>	<p><b>Covered Lives Sunset</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NYSACHO's lobbyist Amy Kellogg met with the Governor's Division of Budget to advocate for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension of the Covered Lives sunset</li> <li>Returning funds retained by the state that counties expected to receive</li> </ul> </li> <li>DOB responded verbally positively to the extension request but was non-committal regarding returning funds.</li> <li>Sarah anticipates the Governor may include the extension in the executive budget given receptiveness despite expected fiscal constraints next year.</li> </ul> <p><b>CYSHCN Contract Delays</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counties began program work October 1, but contracts have not been fully executed due to approval delays tied to the Community Accessibility &amp; Inclusion (CAI) program funding attachment.</li> <li>Delays are affecting staffing and program operations; counties fear inability to spend funds within timelines.</li> <li>Counties reported that DOH communicated no extensions would be allowed despite months already lost.</li> <li>NYSACHO will elevate concerns with DOB and advocates and requested that counties provide supporting details to strengthen advocacy.</li> </ul>
<b>AT Requests</b>	<p>Multiple counties expressed serious operational concerns regarding lack of communication and system tracking transparency:</p> <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AT requests pending since December 2024.</li> <li>Counties are not copied on provider communications; some families received equipment unbeknownst to counties.</li> <li>AT process via EI Hub has no status visibility, preventing tracking or monitoring.</li> <li>Pre-purchase authorizations rarely issued; purchase authorizations often come after equipment has already been delivered.</li> <li>Emailing BEI appears to accelerate responses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add AT request workflow clarification to the December 18 All-County Call.</li> </ul>



<b>4% Modifier</b>	<p>Grace confirmed CMS approval and BEI's release of eligible zip codes and noted that NYSACHO submitted questions awaiting responses.</p> <p><b>Concerns Raised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zip codes selected do not align with demonstrated county needs (e.g., zip codes with no children currently served, zip codes outside county boundaries).</li><li>• Rural counties emphasized that anticipated relief for critical provider shortages is not reflected in allocations.</li><li>• Concern about reliance on an algorithm based on poverty and census density thresholds rather than EI utilization data and wait lists.</li><li>• Pervasive confusion about retroactivity to 4/1, billing rules, escrow impact, and system updates.</li></ul> <p><b>Clarification Requested</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whether Medicaid will automatically rebill the 4% or counties will need to pay upfront from escrow.</li><li>• How to report children living in one zip code but receiving services in another.</li><li>• Timeline for eMedNY system modifications to support billing.</li></ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full review in Fiscal Workgroup meeting next Tuesday</li><li>• Continued follow-up with BEI for written answers to the 12 submitted questions.</li></ul>
<b>Pediatric Dental Care</b>	<p>Raised by Erie County regarding significant caregiver struggle accessing pediatric dental care for Medicaid-insured children due to providers discontinuing Medicaid participation over reimbursement losses.</p> <p>Discussion Perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concern extends beyond pediatric care; many rural counties lack any Medicaid dental provider, pediatric or otherwise.</li><li>• Sarah to contact Dental Association to understand landscape and opportunities for aligned advocacy.</li><li>• Agreement that oral health issues are a meaningful family health priority and cross-system concern.</li></ul>
<b>Open Discussion</b>	<p>Topics raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homeless children in EI: Need Hub capacity to better identify and track EI children experiencing homelessness or residing in temporary housing (suggestion for dropdown indicator).</li><li>• 4410 waitlists &amp; NYSED: Push for district accountability on opening classrooms, evaluation timelines, quality improvements, and qualification standards, particularly around RTIC-only delays.</li><li>• Registered Behavioral Technicians (RBTs): Draft document being finalized for DECO review; concerns about expanding qualified professionals without realistic workforce availability.</li><li>• Licensed Creative Arts Therapists (LCAT): No counties able to recruit LCATs due to significantly higher private-sector compensation and unwillingness to travel; noted that this category expansion has not benefited EI service capacity.</li></ul>
<b>Closing</b>	<p>Grace thanked participants and reminded them of upcoming meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All-County Call – December 18</li><li>• NYSED Meeting – December 11 (agenda item requests to be solicited)</li></ul> <p>The next Family Health Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am.</p>



## Participants

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