



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION  
OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS**

*Leading the Way to Healthier Communities*

*NYSACHO, in partnership with the New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Early Intervention and Bureau of Child & Adolescent Health, is proud to present the:*

**Early Intervention & Children and Youth  
with Special Health Care Needs Summit:  
2026 New York Statewide Meeting**

**May 19- 20th, 2026  
Hilton Garden Inn - Troy, New York**

**MEETING PROGRAM**



# Agenda

## Tuesday, May 19th - Afternoon

### *Early Intervention Focused Sessions*

#### **11:45 am – 12:30 pm: Registration Open**

*Opportunity to visit Exhibitor Booths*

#### **12:30 pm – 12:35 pm: Opening Remarks - Main Ballroom**

**Sarah Ravenhall**, Executive Director - New York State Association of County Health Officials

#### **12:35 pm – 2:00 pm: Bureau of Early Intervention & PCG Updates**

Bureau of Early Intervention and PCG Staff

#### **2:00 pm – 2:15 pm: Break**

*Opportunity to visit Exhibitor Booths*

#### **2:15 pm – 3:30 pm: Innovation in the Early Intervention Program at the Local Level (Local Health Department Panel)**

##### **The New York City Early Intervention Referral Portal Program**

- **Nora Puffett**, MPA, Director of Administration and Data - NYC DOHMH Bureau of Early Intervention

##### **Building Teams: Looking Through Every Lens**

- **Deseré Baker**, M.S.Ed, Supervisor, Children with Special Needs - Wayne County Public Health

#### **3:30 pm - 4:30 pm: Transition from Early Intervention to Pre-School Special Education**

New York State Education Department Staff

#### **4:30: Closing**

### **End Day 1**

*Please Note: NYSACHO strives to make our events common allergen free (nuts, eggs, etc.) so that all attendees have the opportunity to fully participate in the planned programming.*

***Please refrain from bringing these foods into the meeting spaces***

## Morning of Wednesday, May 20th

### *Joint Early Intervention & Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Sessions*

**7:30 am – 8:30 am: Registration Open**

*Opportunity to visit Exhibitor Booths*

**8:30 am – 8:35 am: Opening Remarks - Main Ballroom**

**Member Leadership** - New York State Association of County Health Officials

**8:35 am – 9:45 am: Collaboration Between EI & CYSHCN Programs  
(Local Health Department Panel)**

**Combined EI and CYSHCN Parent-Child Groups using Community Accessibility and Inclusion (CAI) Funding**

- **Denise Nichols, RN**, Early Intervention Manager - Chautauqua County Health Dept
- **Jacquelyn Gambino**, CYSHCN and EI Service Coordinator - Chautauqua County Health Dept

**Increasing CYSHCN Awareness and the Importance of Partnerships**

- **Paula Hayes-Hayden**, CYSHCN Coordinator - Orange County Department of Health
- **Sandra Brownsey MS, CAS**, Director of Intervention Services - Orange County Department of Health

**Access to Safe Aquatic Recreation and Community Inclusion for Children with Special Needs**

- **Nina Battista**, Program Administrator - Westchester County Department of Health
- **Gerardo Alvarez**, Staff Assistant, CYSHCN Coordinator - Westchester County Department of Health

**9:45 am - 11:45 am: Four Tools to Help Make Meetings More Effective and Fun**

**Jim FitzGerald**, Director of Operations - Mediation Matters

**11:45 am - 1:00 pm: Lunch Break**

*Opportunity to visit Exhibitor Booths*

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## Afternoon of Wednesday, May 20th

### *Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Focused Sessions*

**1:00 pm – 1:45 pm: Bureau of Child and Adolescent Health Welcome - Main Ballroom**

Bureau of Child & Adolescent Health Staff

**1:45 pm – 3:15 pm: CYSHCN Center of Excellence Activity**

Cornell CYSHCN Center of Excellence Staff

**3:15 pm – 4:30 pm: County Innovation in the CYSHCN Program (Local Health Department Panel)**

#### **Building Bridges for Families in Rural Communities**

- **Hillary Drake**, MPH, CLC, Public Health Outreach Coordinator - Essex County Health Department

#### **Transition Binders and What They Can Become**

- **Mary Jane Manning**, Children's Services Supervisor - Franklin County Public Health
- **Brittany Patterson**, Community Health Worker - Franklin County Public Health

#### **The Bag That Opened Doors: Building Belonging Through Community Partnership**

- **Allison Robb**, Public Health Program Specialist - Wyoming County Health Department

**4:00 pm: Closing and Thank you!**

**End Day 2**

**SCAN TO COMPLETE OUR  
EVENT EVALUATION!**



# Thank You to Our Partners!



## *iCentral*

*Featured May 19th & 20th*

iCentral's mission is to empower service providers—especially in healthcare and education—with simple, customizable software tools that help them deliver care more efficiently and effectively. We reduce administrative burdens, support compliance, and make it easier for agencies and therapists to focus on what matters most: helping the children and families they serve.

iCentral is a software company offering a flexible, cloud-based platform designed to help service providers—especially in healthcare and education—streamline their operations. Our easy-to-use, no-code tools allow agencies to create customized portals for documentation, billing, compliance, and communication. iCentral supports Early Intervention, Preschool Special Education, and other community-based programs by reducing administrative burden and empowering providers to deliver high-quality care to children and families.

**Featured Resources:** New York Early Intervention case management and billing solutions

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*VMC Group Inc.*

*Featured May 19th & 20th*

VMC Group Inc. is a Transportation Management Consultant specializing in oversight of all aspects of Pre-school Special Needs and Early Intervention Transportation Services. We oversee transportation services, which are crucial to many Pre-school Special Needs/EI children, and since County DOH's (or DSS Depts) are mandated to provide these services, our goal is to serve as additional set of "Eyes and Ears" for these Departments, whose charge it is to oversee this population.

**Featured Resources:** Information on our Transportation Management Services including our Point of Contact services, Cost Control and Routing Efficiency, Bid Specifications Preparation, Driver Attendance and Invoice Reconciliation, & Vehicle Inspections

LEARN MORE



OR GO TO:

[vmcconsultantsinc.com](http://vmcconsultantsinc.com)



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**NCT CASEWORKS**

*Featured May 19th & 20th*

Founded and operated in the Minneapolis–St. Paul metro area since 2008, NCT, Inc. is dedicated to helping local and state Health and Human Services (HHS) and Public Health (PH) agencies better serve their communities through advanced document and process management. Our mission is to simplify the complex work of public sector HHS and PH organizations by enabling efficient, secure, and user-friendly management of documents, workflows, and information. At the core of our approach is NCT CaseWorks™, a purpose-built enterprise platform designed specifically for the unique needs of agencies, acting as a companion application to core case management systems. Bridging the gap between case management and content management, CaseWorks™, through Document Infrastructure, streamlines document management, automates critical workflows, and integrates with existing case management and line-of-business systems—helping agencies improve operational efficiency while enhancing service delivery for both workers and the citizens they support.

By connecting people, processes, and information in a unified environment, NCT empowers teams to realize faster eligibility decisions, stronger processes and compliance, increased efficiencies that reduce administrative burden, reduced and preventative errors and costs – all while delivering more responsive services to their communities.

**Featured Resources:** Our CaseWorks Early Intervention Edition, as well as other complementary solutions within our portfolio.

**LEARN MORE**



**OR GO TO:**

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DIGITAL AGENDA, PRESENTATION SLIDES, AND MORE  
CAN BE FOUND AT THE LINK BELOW**



**[HTTPS://NYSACHO.ORG/TOPIC/2026-EARLY-INTERVENTION-CHILDREN-AND-YOUTH-WITH-SPECIAL-HEALTH-CARE-NEEDS-ANNUAL-SUMMIT/](https://nysacho.org/topic/2026-early-intervention-children-and-youth-with-special-health-care-needs-annual-summit/)**

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## Acronyms

BEI = Bureau of Early Intervention

BCAH = Bureau of Child and Adolescent Health

BDARE= Bureau of Data Analytics, Research and Evaluation

CYSHCN = Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

SSIP = State Systemic Improvement Plan



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