



Family Health Committee Meeting Notes

June 9th, 2026 – 11:00am to 12:00pm

Committee Chairs – Stephen Jennings & Lidiya Lednyak

Staff Liaison – Grace Dawson

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome/Introductions	The meeting was facilitated by Grace Dawson, with co-chairs Stephen Jennings and Lidiya Lednyak. Grace Dawson opened the meeting and transitioned immediately into advocacy updates.
Advocacy Updates	<p>EI Covered Lives: NYSACHO reported that EI Covered Lives was extended following the enactment of the state budget.</p> <p>Legislative Monitoring: Several bills continue to be tracked, including those related to lead exposure and Early Intervention (EI) eligibility, as well as maternal mortality.</p> <p>Upcoming Meetings: NYSACHO will attend the quarterly Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) meeting next week and will provide public comments.</p>
Speech Language Pathologists Experience Requirements Proposed Updates	<p>Proposed Rulemaking: The New York State Register from June 3rd included a proposal to align New York’s SLP experience requirements with national certification standards (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association).</p> <p>Objective: The goal is to streamline the application process and reduce administrative burdens for applicants while maintaining high practice standards.</p> <p>Committee Action: Committee Members suggested a "deep dive" into the specifics to ensure alignment with workforce needs. The committee decided to keep this on the agenda for next month to allow members—specifically licensed SLPs—to review the text and provide expert feedback before the 60-day comment period ends.</p>
CYSHCN CAI Letter of Intent	<p>Funding Extension: The committee discussed the Community Accessibility and Inclusion (CAI) Letter of Intent (LOI) for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program.</p> <p>Timeline: The LOI covers participation and funding for two periods: October 2026–September 2027 and October 2027–September 2028.</p> <p>Deadlines: Responses are due to the state by Friday, June 12th.</p>
CPSE Transition	<p>Registration Barriers: A major discussion point was the barrier created by school districts requiring extensive "registration" processes before accepting a referral from Early Intervention to the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE).</p> <p>Regulatory Conflict: Members noted a contradiction between State Education Department (SED) verbal guidance (which says registration cannot be a barrier to referral) and actual district practices (which withhold evaluation consents until registration is complete).</p>



	<p>Workload Issues: Ongoing Service Coordinators (OSCs) are struggling to guide families through these complex, multi-step electronic registration processes, which often lead to delays where children reach their third birthday without a transition plan in place.</p> <p>Action Plan: NYSACHO will write up these issues to present them as joint EI-CPSE transition concerns to both the Department of Health (DOH) and SED.</p>
EI OSC Providers	<p>Capacity and Language Needs: The committee discussed shortages in bilingual service coordination.</p> <p>Interpretation Costs: There is a significant issue where the bilingual evaluation rate does not cover the actual cost of hiring an interpreter (e.g., LanguageLine or local contractors). Consequently, many evaluators refuse bilingual cases unless the county pays for the interpreter separately.</p> <p>Collaborative Solutions: Committee members proposed an "inter-county cooperative agreement" where counties could share bilingual staff or resources via teletherapy to meet linguistic needs for rare languages (e.g., Haitian Creole). NYSACHO will query counties to gauge interest in this collaborative model.</p>
EI Hub	<p>Advocacy Survey: NYSACHO circulated a survey to collect data on technical issues, ticketing system experiences, and the need for additional finance and program reports. This data will be used to advocate for an increase in the administration grant to cover the increased municipal workload. Counties are requested to submit only one response per county by June 26th.</p>
Closing	<p>The next Family Health Committee will be held virtually on Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 at 11:00am.</p>



Participants

Name (original name)	Email
Ianthe Warner	iwarner@cortlandcountyny.gov
Lisa Perfetti	lperfetti@cortlandcountyny.gov
Chasa Petroski	chasa.petroski@ontariocountyny.gov
Kim Schlosser	schlosserk@otsegocountyny.gov
Jay Landolfi	jlandolfi@dutchessny.gov
Mary Jane Manning	maryjane.manning@franklincountyny.gov
Donna Bogin	bogind@co.rockland.ny.us
Kelsey Medick	kmedick@saratogacountyny.gov
Kyra Shew	kyra.shew@delcony.gov
Ianthe Warner	iwarner@cortlandcountyny.gov
Sherry Crisafulli	sherry.crisafulli@oswegocountyny.gov
Lidiya Lednyak	llednyak@health.nyc.gov
Lynette Bellmore	lynette.bellmore@broomecountyny.gov
Renae Johnson	rejohnson@stlawco.gov
Heidi Bond	bondh@otsegocountyny.gov
Lorelei Wagner	lwagner@schuylercountyny.gov
Erik Mastrianni	mastriannie@warrencountyny.gov
Allison Roselle	aroselle@jeffersoncountyny.gov
Roxana Inscho	rinscho@monroecounty.gov
Hannah Busman	hannah.busman@franklincountyny.gov
JoAnn Schallert	schallertj@otsegocountyny.gov
Rita Burns	rita.burns@sullivanny.gov
Michaelah Townley	mtownley@saratogacountyny.gov
Deborah Krenzer-Lewter	deborah.krenzer-lewter@orleanscountyny.gov
Stephen Jennings	stevej@jeffersoncountyny.gov
Nicki Anjeski	nanjeski@cortlandcountyny.gov
Janice Jenosheck	janice.jenosheck@niagaracounty.gov
Janine Fitzmaurice	jfitzmaurice@dutchessny.gov
Nina Battista	nbat@westchestercountyny.gov
Jennifer de Elia	jennifer.deelia@suffolkcountyny.gov
Melanie Miller	millerm@tiogacountyny.gov
Kate Ott	kate.ott@ontariocountyny.com
Missi Babcock - Cortland Co.	mbabcock@cortlandcountyny.gov
Angela Stuart Palmer	apalmer@fultoncountyny.gov
Tracy Blair	tblair@cayugacounty.gov
Jessie Hand	jessiehand@livingstoncountyny.gov
Alyssa Arlen	aarlen@washingtoncountyny.gov
Nora Puffett	npuffett@health.nyc.gov
Meghan Sedorus	msedorus@cayugacounty.gov



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

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

Desere Baker	dbaker@waynecountyny.gov
Jessica Clark Manderville	jclark@tompkins-co.org
Shannon Traver	straver@washingtoncountyny.gov
Kerry VanAuken	kvanauken@waynecountyny.gov
Kat Potter	kpotter@steubencountyny.gov
Laurel Headwell	lheadwell@fultoncountyny.gov
Natalie Prehoda	natalie.prehoda@schenectadycountyny.gov
Deborah Krenzer-Lewter	deborah.krenzer-lewter@orleanscountyny.gov
Jill Garvin	jill.garvin@erie.gov

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