



Family Health Committee Meeting Notes

August 11th, 2026 – 11:00am to 12:00pm

Committee Chairs – Stephen Jennings & Lidiya Lednyak

Staff Liaison – Grace Dawson

Agenda Item	Discussion
Welcome and Introductions	
Advocacy Updates	No new advocacy items were introduced outside of the standing agenda items. The committee focused on aligning current efforts with the upcoming NYSAC resolution cycle.
Dental Therapy Partnership	Context: The committee reviewed a proposal to sign on as a partner for dental therapy advocacy to address persistent oral health access disparities in both rural and high-poverty urban areas. Committee Concerns: Members raised critical questions regarding: • Viability: The lack of existing educational/licensure programs in New York. • Fiscal/Legal: Uncertainty regarding Medicaid reimbursement, liability, and regulatory oversight. • Practicality: Whether local dentists would actually utilize dental therapists if authorized. Action: A poll resulted in a majority in favor of moving forward. However, the committee decided to delay a formal recommendation to the full NYSACHO board until September.
DOH Developmental Screening Push	Initiative: The DOH has issued a call to action to pediatricians and healthcare providers to increase developmental screenings, supported by a new media campaign ("Milestones Matter"). Implementation: Members discussed utilizing CYSHCN coordinators and local "Help Me Grow" programs to facilitate this. Strategic Value: Attendees noted that while capacity is a known issue, increased screenings provide vital data to identify unmet needs. This data can be used to justify the reallocation of resources (e.g., hiring more OTs if fine motor delays are identified). Consensus: The committee views this as a "door-opener" to engage pediatricians and improve community-wide tracking of developmental health.
NYSAC 4410 Whitepaper	Status: The whitepaper, authored by NYSAC, was informed by data collected from the committee. Criticism: Members expressed strong concern over the language regarding 4410 transportation. The current draft implies that school districts should assume full financial and operational ownership of transportation. Concerns: • Financial Burden: School districts are already facing severe budget constraints; an unfunded mandate would likely result in immediate rejection by superintendents. • Strategic Misstep: Members argued this could "kill" the conversation before it starts, as many counties have spent years building fragile partnerships where districts manage the buses and counties reimburse the costs.



	Proposed Pivot: The committee recommended reframing the whitepaper to focus on "efficiency" and "better products for students" (e.g., better-trained bus staff) rather than shifting cost burdens.
NYSAC Resolutions	4410 Transportation: The committee will revise the resolution to align with the "efficiency/partnership" pivot discussed in the whitepaper section. It will be updated with recent data showing the escalation of costs to demonstrate the need for structural reform. Medicaid Retroactive Payment: The committee will push for a resolution clarifying that the payment cycle should resume on a biannual basis. EI Workforce Capacity: The committee will re-introduce a resolution focusing on building the Early Intervention workforce. Members noted there is currently a unique opportunity to engage the Governor's office on this specific issue.
Open Discussion	
Closing	The next Family Health Committee will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 8 th , 2026 at 11:00am.



Participants

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