NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS
Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

NYSACHO EI All County Call – October 22, 2026

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Agenda Item	Discussion/Presentation	Action Item
General Updates	**Federal Transitions:** The Department of Education is undergoing organizational changes, including the relocation of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) building. Despite these shifts, federal support and access remain consistent. **Leadership:** Kelly Rogers (OSERS) has departed; Kirsten Baszler is serving as the Acting Assistant Secretary. **Budget:** The President's budget recommends a $50 million increase for Part C grants. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to secure this funding.	
Data and Program Evaluation Unit	**Reporting Timelines:** OSEP is shifting the exit report timeline from February back to November, resulting in a condensed reporting window for the coming year. **Noncompliance Findings:** The Bureau is refining its "subsequent check" process for noncompliance findings. Rather than monthly/quarterly reporting, the Bureau will focus on a core sample from the first quarter of each year. If noncompliance is identified in a subsequent random check, the case will remain open until corrected.	
TA/Training/IS Unit	**Service Coordination Guidance:** Revisions to the billable activities guidance document are underway, incorporating feedback from the Rate Task Force. Key additions include reviewing Multidisciplinary Evaluation (MDE) results, specific transition activities, and attendance at subsequent CPSE meetings.	

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	Billing: Service coordination remains billable in 15-minute increments. Texting and leaving messages remain non-billable administrative tasks. Dissemination of the updated guidance is expected in December or January.	
Provider Approval & Due Process Unit	**Qualified Personnel (QP) Alignment:** Agencies must ensure that service authorizations align with the QP matrix. Special Instruction (SI) should not be used as a "catch-all" authorization. **Amendments:** If an agency needs to change an SI authorization to a specific discipline (e.g., Social Work), parent consent is required, and an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) amendment may be necessary. The Bureau is reviewing whether these changes can be processed as data entry errors within the first 30 days.	
Fiscal Planning and Policy Unit	**Reimbursement:** State share for escrow has been processed through January 2026. **4% Modifier:** The Bureau is drafting communication regarding the next list of eligible zip codes for the 4% modifier. Existing authorizations will be honored until their end dates to prevent service disruption.	
Information Systems and Quality Improvement Unit	**Closed IFSP Editing:** Counties are managing a significant backlog of data corrections following the August system update. **Full Release 3 (FR3) Preview:** • **Amendment Process:** A major update will allow service authorization numbers to remain consistent across amendments if the service itself is not impacted. This reduces administrative burden and eliminates the need to relink referring providers in the scripts panel. • **Transition Panel:** Consolidation is planned to improve data entry efficiency. • **Release Timeline:** Expected in winter; specific dates are pending final testing. **Known Issues:** • **Transition Conference:** A known system error incorrectly flags transition conferences as "late." Counties should maintain documentation on file. • **Session Calculations:** Users reported discrepancies in session counts. The Bureau recommends verifying entries and contacting the call center if errors persist.	

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	Backdating: The system currently prevents backdating end dates for service authorizations. The Bureau is reviewing this restriction in the context of audit accuracy.	
Open Discussion	**Access to Closed Records:** Counties reported that the "Muniprog All" role currently lacks access to closed records for children who are five years of age or older. This prevents counties from compiling complete EI records when legal requests are received. The Bureau committed to reviewing this access issue. **Services Post-Bereavement:** A question was raised regarding the timeframe for providing services to a family following the death of a child. The Bureau indicated they would review this and provide further guidance. **Speech Coding Updates:** It was confirmed that the Bureau plans to implement new speech codes effective January 1, 2026. A formal communication regarding these changes will be issued to the field. **Workforce Development (AHEC Partnership):** A participant highlighted a potential partnership with the Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to address provider shortages. AHECs are interested in engaging high school and college students in health career pathways, including Early Intervention. The Bureau and NYSACHO will facilitate communication to determine statewide interest in this partnership. **Reactivation Requirements:** A concern was raised regarding the inability of providers to add scripts or therapist assignments to closed cases without the municipality reactivating the case. The Bureau acknowledged this as current system functionality and will discuss potential alternatives.	
Closing	**Demo Follow-up:** A second demonstration of the new "Full Release 3" amendment process was conducted for interested attendees. **Adjournment:** The meeting concluded with seasonal closing remarks, with the Bureau and PCG continuing to take pending technical and programmatic questions back for further internal review.	

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