

NEW YORK CITY EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL (LEICC)		
01.23.26	10:00 AM	WebEx
LEICC Member Attendees	<p>Lidiya Lednyak, MA, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Early Intervention, NYC DOHMH</p> <p>Elizabeth Leone, Chair of LEICC</p> <p>Patricia Gray, Ed.D., LCSW</p> <p>Renee Noel</p> <p>Sundari Periasamy, MD</p> <p>Jessica Wallenstein, Ph.D.</p> <p>Tricia DeVito, MS, Ed., SDL</p> <p>Christopher Tan, Esq.</p> <p>Danielle Herring (Absent)</p> <p>Beth Elenko PhD, OTR/L, BCP, CLA, FAOTA</p> <p>Jackie Chessen, MSW, SSW, LCSW-R</p> <p>Theresa Pitogo</p> <p>Dolores Giurdanella</p>	
Welcome, Introductions, and Minutes Approval	<p>Elizabeth Leone opened the meeting by reminding attendees that New York City’s Local Law No. 103 of 2013 and the New York State Open Meetings Law require open meetings to be both webcast and archived; therefore, today’s meeting was being recorded.</p> <p>Elizabeth Leone reviewed the procedures for LEICC meetings, including that, for in-person LEICC meetings, attendees should pre-register on the NYC Department of Health Early Intervention LEICC webpage. For web based LEICC meetings, attendees will find a link on the NYC Department of Health Early Intervention LEICC webpage. Meetings are open to the public, but the audience does not address the LEICC members during the meeting. The Chat and Q&A features should not be used for today’s web-based meeting. Members of the public were asked to submit written public comments by emailing EmbeddedCoaching@health.nyc.gov.</p> <p>Elizabeth Leone stated that transcription will be available for this meeting, and that written meeting minutes will be made available.</p> <p>LEICC members introduced themselves. Minutes from the October 2025 meeting were approved.</p>	

SEICC Report, NYS Executive Budget Updates, and Referral Portal

Lidiya Lednyak MA, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Early Intervention provided a summary of the State Early Intervention Coordinating Council (SEICC) meetings held on December 10, 2025. All SEICC materials were shared with the LEICC members, along with the NYC BEI Data Report and Agenda, in advance of this meeting.

SEICC Recap: Bureau Administrative Updates

- NYS DOH Bureau of Early Intervention Updates
 - Fiscal Agent Payment Data and Transportation Update
- SEICC Recap: 2024-25 enacted NYS budget rate modifiers
 - The 2024-25 enacted NYS budget included a 4% increase for in-person services delivered in underserved communities, retroactive to April 1, 2025.
 - CMS approved the State Plan Amendment (SPA) in September 2025
 - NYS BE indicated that NYS will be modifying zip codes for 4% ongoing, with the first round of modifications planned for July 2026
- SEICC Recap: The 2024-25 enacted NYS budget included a 5% increase for EI providers for in-person services.
 - Part of the savings to be achieved by decreasing the rate of EI telehealth services.
 - State Plan Amendment (SPA) was submitted to CMS for the rate increase to be retroactive to October 1, 2024 and the telehealth reduction to be effective January 1, 2025.
 - CMS and NYS BEI currently engaging in question-and-answer period.
- SEICC Recap: Stopgap payments
 - NYS BEI issued stopgap payment announcement on 5.16.2025
 - Last State Stopgap payment occurred on 6.19.2025
 - Repayment of the Stopgap payments began on 7.23.2025
 - As of 12.05.2025, 48% of Stopgap payments were recouped
 - Goals is for full recoupmnt by 12.31.2026.
 - Questions and issues should be directed to EIP.Fiscal@health.ny.gov

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>SEICC Recap: Fiscal audits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SDOH initiated fiscal audits in 2025 ▪ 22 fiscal audits performed as of 12.10.2025 ● <u>SEICC Recap: Electronic provider application</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launched in October 2025 and has resulted in improved timeliness for approval, reapproval, and approval amendments ▪ Since the launch NYS BEI has approved 575 new providers ▪ Updated provider information transfers directly into EI-Hub ● <u>SEICC Recap: Upcoming updates to NYS Early Intervention guidance documents</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition – joint development with SED ▪ Assistive Technology ▪ Biling for Initial and Ongoing Service Coordination Activities <p><u>SEICC Recap: Fiscal Agent Payment Data and Transportation Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SDOH reported a significant reduction in the number of claims submitted to Medicaid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SDOH reported a significant reduction in the number of claims submitted to Medicaid. ○ 60% of all children in EI have Medicaid. ○ Claims submitted to Medicaid are down from an average of \$118M per quarter in 2024 pre-EI-Hub Implementation to an average of \$92M post EI-Hub implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NYS EICC passed a motion recommending a methodology to identify zip codes for the 4% rate increase.
<p>NYC BEI Updates</p>	<p>Lidiya Lednyak MA, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Early Intervention provided n overview of changes to Federal and NYS and NYC immunization policies.</p> <p><u>Immunization Update: Federal Changes to Childhood Vaccine Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On January 5, 2026, the United States Health and Human Services released new immunization guidance that changed the CDC’s childhood vaccination recommendations. ● The federal government did not remove any vaccines from the schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some vaccines that had been recommended for all children have been reclassified as either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk-based or

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subject to a discussion between provider and patient <p><u>Immunization Update: NYS Immunization Practices Following Federal Changes to Childhood Vaccine Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a statement disseminated on January 7, 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NYS DOH and NYCDOHMH reject all changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immunization schedule. ○ There are no changes to NYS and NYC school immunization requirements and related policies, vaccine access, insurance coverage, or the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). ○ Vaccine policy decisions, including school immunization requirements, are established by states under their public health authority.
<p>NYC Early Intervention Referral Portal Update</p>	<p>Lidiya Lednyak MA, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Early Intervention provided an update on the NYC EI Referral Portal</p> <p><u>Progress to Date</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 10/14/25, the public can now make a referral to Early Intervention or Developmental Monitoring anytime from a computer, smartphone, or other mobile device • Over 4,000 referrals received via portal to date <p><u>Who should use the portal?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and family members, daycare providers, pediatricians, other community members. • EI providers who are approved to submit referrals directly into the EI-Hub, but receive a duplicate message when they do so. • EI providers who do not submit referrals into EI-Hub. <p><u>Who should not use the portal?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EI providers who are approved to submit referrals directly into EI-Hub should continue to do so. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only if EI Hub flags the referral as a duplicate should these EI providers submit the referral via the portal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and foster care agency team members should continue to call the ACS Hotline 877-885-KIDZ (5439) to refer families.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Care providers submitting referrals through their Electronic Health record should continue to do so. <p><u>.NYC EI Referral Portal Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrations were completed for Community Partners on 11/6/25 and for EI Providers on 11/18/25 ● The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for EI Providers is in development ● Tip Sheet for submitting a referral is being developed <p>To request a demonstration, email: EINOW@health.nyc.gov</p> <p><u>NYC EI Referral Portal Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adding a field to indicate if the case was previously known to EI and, if known, a field to enter the child’s reference ID number ● Regularly updating dropdown list of EI Service Coordination Agencies ● Expanded primary and secondary language dropdown list options
<p>Early Intervention Data Report</p>	<p>Nora Puffett, Director, Administration and Data, reviewed the data report. Data was presented on new referrals and re-referrals, receipt of services, aging out outcomes and insurance status in the Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of New and Re-Referrals Per Fiscal Year, by Race and Ethnicity July 2019 – December 2025 ● Number of New and Re-Referrals Per Fiscal Year, by Borough July 2019 – December 2025 ● Number of Children Receiving General Services Per Fiscal Year, by Borough July 2019 – December 2025 ● Number of Children Receiving General Services Per Fiscal Year, by Race and Ethnicity July 2019 – December 2025 ● Outcomes for Children Aging Out of EIP by Race and Ethnicity, July 2022 – March 2025 ● Insurance Status of Children Receiving General Services, July 2025 – December 2025

<p>Early Intervention Provider Oversight Activities</p>	<p>Nora Puffett, Director, Administration and Data, presented on the new monitoring cycle to begin in March 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2026 program monitoring will begin in March. ● 100% of agencies will be monitored in a 2-year cycle, CY26-27 ● Review period will begin May 1, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is 6 ½ months after EI Hub implementation ● An updated self-assessment tool and list of regulatory, guidance, NYC and other citations underlying monitoring standards will be available on the NYC EI website in early February
<p>Regional Office and Training Updates</p>	<p>Dolores Giurdanella, Director, NYC Regional Office Operations, and Jeanette Gong, Ph.D., Director, NYC Intervention Quality Initiatives presented updates.</p> <p><u>Changes to Improve Timeliness to Date</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional Offices have started to schedule ASD amendment meetings with an EIOD present. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emphasizing the use of Microsoft Teams as the virtual in-person platform ● Utilizing data to help resolve simple errors by unlocking the IFSP before it closes. ● Regional Offices have reorganized staff so there is a central and responsible point of contact for receiving initial IFSP Consents and expediting EIOD signatures. ● Onboarded additional Referral Staff, Pre-IFSP Specialists, Schedulers and EIOD’s towards the end of 2025. <p><u>Upcoming Timeliness Enhancements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Having EIODs be present at Annual IFSP meetings using Microsoft Teams as the virtual In-person platform. ● The initiation of using an electronic platform to obtain signatures from all parties. ● Unlocking IFSPs to authorize a pending service. ● Streamlining the review/approval of Supplemental Requests and potential addition of a new service to the IFSP. ● Clarification of consent requirement for Initial, Review, and Annual IFSPs ● Streamlining of paperwork requirements for Amendment IFSPs

Next Steps

- The continuation of onboarding new staff.
- The continuation of Just-in-Time presentations to ensure consistency and common knowledge across Regional Office staff.
- The continuation of ongoing work with providers to identify workarounds and solutions for common problems.
- Continued involvement with statewide groups and directly with SDOH and PCG to identify and prioritize problems and test fixes in the EI Hub.

NYC BEI-Hunger College SC Professional Development Institute (SCPDI)

- Focus groups highlighted the need for professional development on culturally responsive interactions with families.
- NYC BEI partnered with Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work to create the SCPDI
- SCPDI acknowledges the critical role of service coordinators.
- The SCPDI provided specific training that focused on transition to EI Hub and updates to NYC Policies & Procedures in 2025.

2025-2026 Mandatory SCPDI Trainings

- In 2025, there were five mandatory trainings for SC supervisors.
- In 2026, two new trainings were added, to be completed by December 2026.
- Provider Oversight will begin tracking SC supervisors' compliance with this requirement in 2026.

Information was presented on 2025 SCPDI participation and mandatory trainings for 2026.

Certificates of Completion

- Register electronically for the training and attend the whole training, with video on and responsiveness when called upon
- Sign in and out at the start and end of the session.
- Complete the pre-test before the start of the training (log in by 9:00 AM), the post-test, and the evaluation survey on time.
- Register in advance to receive materials and the training link.
- Do not forward the link to someone who has not registered, they will not receive a certificate.
- CEUs/CTLEs are available for the following disciplines *only*:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CEUs: LCSWs/LMSWs, PTs/PTAs, OTs/OTAs, SLPs/CFs, audiologists ○ CTLEs: NYS teachers, educational leadership certificate holders, Level III paraprofessionals. ● The seven 2026 Policy Series trainings will be recorded for future reference. ● No certificates, CEUs, or CTLEs will be issued for viewing recorded sessions. <p><u>Certificates of Completion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All SCPDI trainings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fulfill the NYS DOH BEI annual requirement for professional development. ○ cover the NYS DOH BEI <i>Competency Areas for Evidence-based Evaluations and Services in NYS EIP</i>. ● The <i>NYC EIP Policy and Procedure Manual</i> and forms were updated in October 2025 and are available on the NYC BEI <i>Information for Providers</i> webpage: ● SCPDI participants will receive a copy of the Power Point and materials
<p>Early Intervention Family and Provider Texting</p>	<p>Diana Girhotra, EI Quality & Communications Project Manager, presented on NYC BEI’s two texting programs.</p> <p><u>Text 2 Families</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goal: To address supplement information parents/caregivers receive while in the program. ● Audience: Parents/caregivers of children currently in Early Intervention ● Program Approach: Customized information based on child and family characteristics, and child’s status in EI. <p><u>Provider Texting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goal: To inform SCs and EI providers of current policy and program changes. ● Audience: NYC SCs and EI providers. ● Program Approach: Alerts on changes, venue for subscribers to ask questions <p>2025 participation data was presented for both programs.</p>

**Recent Article 47
Health Code
Revisions:
Staffing Flexibilities
for Group Child
Care**

Renee Noel, Assistant Commissioner, NYC DOHMH Bureau of Child Care presented on changes for education directors and group teachers.

New Flexibility for Education Directors

- Education Directors (ED) now only need to be onsite during “core hours.”
- Core hours are defined by your program and must include at least 8 hours per day of educational activities, experiences, and routines that promote learning.
 - Programs that operate 8 hours or less must have an ED present at all times.
- Program must name an Education Director Designee (EDD) who covers for the ED outside of core hours.
 - There is always either an ED or EDD on site whenever at least one child is present.
- Education Director Designee(s) and core hours must be listed in your Safety Plan. Complete the [Safety Plan Worksheet](#) (PDF) to update your Safety Plan.

Preschool Program: Education Director Designee

- Who qualifies?: A [Group Teacher](#) with New York State Certification in certain areas, or a Group Teacher who qualifies by Education and Experience (Related Field) and two years of experience in a preschool program.

Infant/Toddler Program: Education Director Designee

- Who qualifies?: A [Group Teacher](#) who has Education Director qualifications or a bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field of study and at least one year of experience teaching children less than 24 months old.

Education Director Designee Requirements

- An Education Director Designee must have completed the comprehensive background check and been cleared to work for your program.
- The current requirements for coverage apply when two programs operate at one location (co-located infant/toddler and preschool programs), you can:
 - have a preschool program’s Education Director Designee cover both programs but they cannot teach while covering for the Education Director or
 - have an Education Director Designee for each program and they both can teach while covering for the Education Director.

	<p><u>More Flexible Coverage for Group Teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Teachers and Teacher’s Aides can now cover for a Group Teacher in a classroom for up to 5 days to maintain ratios during personal leave (an increase from the prior 3 days). An assistant teacher needs to be in the classroom. The other staff can be either another assistant teacher or a teacher’s aide <p><u>Expanded Group Teacher Qualifications for Two-Year-Old Classrooms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who qualifies?: A Group Teacher with infant/toddler teaching qualifications can now lead a preschool classroom for children who are two years old. Manage enrollment to ensure that two-year-olds do not turn three prior to the end of the program’s school year if their teacher does not have preschool teacher qualifications. Once a child turns 3 years old, they must be in a group led by a teacher who is preschool qualified
<p>Developmental Screening in Childcare Centers</p>	<p>Rhea Lewis, SAS, M.S. ED, Director, Quality Child Care Unit gave an update on the Enhancing Quality in Child Care through Developmental Screenings (EQCCDS) initiative.</p> <p>A collaborative effort to enhance the quality in childcare programs by integrating developmental screenings into their program's procedures and current practices</p> <p><u>Goals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance childcare provider practice by increasing the number of non-NYCPS childcare programs that integrate developmental screenings into their programs. To support childcare programs as they begin to identify children with potential disabilities or developmental delays and help them to access the early intervention program for services. <p><u>Initiative Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-year grant funded by the Robin Hood Foundation through the Fund for the Public Health of New York. Support 60 non-NYCPS childcare programs in 23 zip codes located in Brooklyn and Queens. Provide ASQ screening tools and other materials. Train childcare staff to administer screenings. Provide support to providers to integrate screening and EI referrals into their program models. Provide ongoing coaching and technical assistance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track and monitor data for measurable outcomes. • EI used an equity-based approach to identify zip codes based on community demographics and referral rate to EI. • The following are the zip codes selected for this initiative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brooklyn (12): 11205, 11210, 11213, 11216, 11217, 11225, 11230, 11231, 11234, 11236, 11238, 11239 ○ Queens (11): 11101, 11365, 11367, 11375, 11411, 11417, 11418, 11422, 11427, 11428, 11429 <p><u>Progress to Date</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received 15 applications, completed 6 initial meetings, and 9 trainings. Collection of data and TA are underway. <p><u>Advisory Board</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LEICC sub-committee Advisory Board members consist of 11 individuals who will lend support in the discussion of process, approach and sustainability of this work.
Public Comments	<p>No public comments. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.</p>