



NEW YORK CITY EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL (LEICC)
MEETING OF JULY 24, 2012

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION
MEETING CONVENED AT 10:03 AM	<p>The following members were present:</p> <p>Marie B. Casalino, Assistant Commissioner Braden Josephson, LEICC Chair Maria Bediako Lorenzo Brown Nancy Calderon-Cruz Mary DeBey Kathleen Hoskins Lois Kessler Helen Murphy Toni Rodriguez Lisa Shulman Mina Sputz Christopher Treiber Oliver Trinidad Catherine Warkala</p> <p>Guest: Adam Karpati, NYC DOHMH Executive Deputy Commissioner</p>
<u>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</u>	<p>Braden Josephson, Chair, LEICC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of protocol for LEICC meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Meetings are open to the public.○ Audience does not address LEICC during meeting.○ Audience members may sign up with Felicia Poteat to speak during public comment period.○ Dr. Braden Josephson offered recognition and thanks to the two (2) most recent former LEICC Chairs, Marilyn Rubenstein and Linda Silver.



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<p><u>REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 3.20.12 MINUTES</u></p> <p><u>TRIBUTE</u></p>	<p>Marie Casalino, Assistant Commissioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes from the March 20, 2012 meeting were approved by LEICC members who were members at the time of that meeting.• BEI greatly appreciates the work of LEICC members.• There is currently one (1) parent member on the LEICC and the LEICC is looking for additional parent members.• Thanked Marilyn Rubenstein, Linda Silver, and past council members for their terms served as members.• Registration to attend meetings is done through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) webpage.• Documents to be discussed at the meeting are emailed to council members and posted on the NYC DOHMH BEI webpage. Hard copies of the meeting materials are not provided at meetings, with the exception of the meeting agenda.• Phyllis Pitt passed away in May 2012. Phyllis joined the Program Monitoring and Quality Improvement (PMQI) Unit in 1997 as an evaluator. In 2005, she became Director of PMQI. Phyllis cared deeply about early intervention and children and loved to teach. She left BEI in December 2011 to pursue a career in academia at Fordham University.
<p><u>DEPARTMENT REPORT STATE EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL (SEICC) REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</u></p>	<p>Marie Casalino, Assistant Commissioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talina Jones is the new Chair of the SEICC. Ms. Jones is a parent member who has been very involved with the SEICC over the years.• Brad Hutton has moved into a new role at the New York State Department of Health (SDOH). Brenda Knudson-Chouffi and Donna Noyes have been appointed Co-Directors of the SDOH BEI.• Most of the SEICC meeting focused on the budget reforms.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The goals of the reforms are to decrease the administrative burden on municipalities, increase insurance revenues, achieve efficiencies, and improve accountability in



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	<p>fiscal operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Beginning January 1, 2013, providers will enter into agreements directly with the SDOH.○ April 2013 will mark the end of all provider contracts with municipalities, with the exception of transportation and respite providers.○ All billing and payment will transpire through the statewide fiscal agent.○ Service coordinators will have added responsibilities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ notify Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) when a child may be eligible for OPWDD services;▪ ensure that Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) are implemented properly;▪ report to municipality on delivery of services to eligible children;▪ notify school districts of child's potential transition and convene transition meetings.○ Municipalities continue to have authority to conduct provider oversight.○ Parents should not be aware of the system changes going on; the changes are at the system and provider level. There have been reports that interventionists are using authorized Early Intervention (EI) sessions to discuss the system changes; agencies should convey to their staff that this is inappropriate.○ SDOH is drafting the regulatory package that will include changes to Public Health Law and preparing the Request For Proposal (RFP) for the statewide fiscal agent and the provider agreements.○ Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) postponed its visit to SDOH. SDOH reported that there will be changes in the way OSEP will be using data. Data emphasis is shifting from monitoring regulatory compliance to looking at outcomes and fiscal accountability. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Group Developmental Task Force presented initial findings of a survey and will develop a formal summary report.● SDOH reported to the SEICC Reimbursement Advisory Panel (RAP) that it is still working on a fixed rate methodology for service coordination rates.
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EMBEDDED COACHING

- An email was sent on April 26, 2012 stating that all future RAP meetings for the year will be cancelled due to SDOH workload issues.
- Dr. Braden Josephson asked for more details about the three (3) month period between January and April when providers' SDOH agreements will overlap with their municipal contracts. Dr. Casalino stated that the information is not yet available; it will be shared as it becomes available.

Lidiya Lednyak, Director of Policy and Quality Assurance

- The third Learning Collaborative was launched this summer with 10 agency partners, 85 interventionists, and 22 clinical supervisors or practice mentors.
 - Content sessions for interventionists took place in mid-June; two (2) 5-hour practice mentor trainings are taking place in July.
 - Practice mentors will hold 1½ -2 hour monthly Communities of Practice with interventionists for the next five (5) months to review the principles of Embedded Coaching (EC) and address any issues that arise as interventionists integrate EC into their practice.
 - Practice mentors will conduct two (2) direct observations of each interventionist, using the Natural Environment Rating Scale to assess the effectiveness of the Learning Collaborative.
 - BEI staff will observe each practice mentor during two (2) Communities of Practice and one (1) direct observation session.
 - 375 interventionists and supervisors have been trained since February 2011.
 - BEI is seeking input on two (2) projects: 1) web-based training modules for interventionists and for parents and 2) the creation of a mentor network for interventionists incorporating EC in their practice.
 - For more information, questions, or suggestions on the Learning Collaborative, contact EmbeddedCoaching@health.nyc.gov. For technical assistance questions, contact EITA@health.nyc.gov. For training questions, contact EIStaffDevelopment@health.nyc.gov.
- Oliver Trinidad spoke about his agency's experience with this year's Learning Collaborative.



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<p><u>BEI – NEW INITIATIVE: Curriculum-Based Assessment Pilot Project</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ability Builders enrolled 18 people this year.○ They have completed two (2) lectures and will complete mentoring and coaching over the next six (6) months.○ The general reaction of interventionists has been very positive.○ The main feeling among interventionists is that the EC approach emphasizes the importance of parenting and caregiving in EI.○ There was initial anxiety that the approach would increase paperwork, change service delivery models and service approval systems, and dilute clinicians’ expertise and training. Oliver Trinidad reported that after having participated in the EC trainings, those anxieties have been unfounded.○ BEI has been collaborative in its approach and is very willing to listen to and work with providers to make improvements.● Nancy Calderon-Cruz stated that the commitment and technical support provided has gone a long way and is greatly appreciated.● Dr. Braden Josephson stated that it is important to be mindful of paperwork requirements and associated behaviors. <p>Marie Casalino, Assistant Commissioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dr. Casalino introduced a new BEI initiative, the Curriculum-Based Assessment Pilot Project, that is aligned with the Embedded Coaching approach.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In July BEI staff met with leadership of provider organizations to describe the initiative and engage in development/design.○ The goal of the project is to inform NYC Early Intervention Program decision-making through the use of a curriculum based assessment tool for assessing and monitoring progress of children receiving EI services. The Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System (AEPS) has been identified as the appropriate tool.○ BEI will be conducting a one (1) year pilot with several provider agency partners.○ Going forward, the Programs and Services Committee will work with BEI on this initiative.○ The next steps are to develop and refine the implementation protocol and recruit
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PROVIDER OVERSIGHT

agencies.

- The benefits to partner agencies are the opportunity to inform NYC Early Intervention Program decision-making, as well as having access to AEPS training, AEPS assessment and curriculum tools and manuals, and a subscription to a comprehensive online data management system that includes tools to simplify monitoring child progress.
- Dr. Braden Josephson stated that providers are interested in initiatives dealing with evaluation and are enthusiastic about the initiative.
- The projected rollout for the project is early 2013, but a definite date has not been determined.
- Dr. Helen Murphy inquired about the training period.
- Nancy Calderon-Cruz inquired about the maximum number of interventionists that can be trained. Dr. Casalino stated that BEI will work out those details.

Nora Puffett, Director of Administration & Data Management

- The new provider oversight process started in January and has been going very well.
- There are initial findings on 30 provider agencies.
 - There were no ratings of “Fail” in evaluation; over two-thirds of agencies were rated “Good”.
 - Ratings in the area of Initial and Ongoing Service Coordination were not good.
- The goal is to work with the provider community to determine together how to address compliance issues and agency needs.

Marie Casalino, Assistant Commissioner

- BEI will continue to propose and distribute drafts of policies and procedures to the LEICC. The next chapters will be on amendments and service delivery.
- There is still no data report. There are issues with the quality and integrity of NYEIS data that preclude developing a meaningful data report. BEI has been in conversation with SDOH regarding these issues.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYEIS version 1.6.1 was released on July 19th. There had been performance issues with version 1.6 running slowly; the new version is supposed to address technical issues. NYEIS fiscal issues continue to affect both providers and municipalities. <p>Adam Karpati, Executive Deputy Commissioner, NYC DOHMH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theme of best practices and quality service delivery is consistent across the Division of Mental Hygiene and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene overall. • There is an interest in monitoring and measuring outcomes in a rigorous, objective, standardized way.
<p><u>EI FINANCE UPDATE</u></p>	<p>Rick Kennedy, Director of EI Finance (spoke on behalf of Assunta Rozza, Deputy Commissioner for Finance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges with NYEIS continue. EI Finance continues to partner with SDOH to address issues as they arise. • Providers can contact EI Finance for assistance. • Dr. Braden Josephson inquired about the status of claim denial waivers, which has become a manual process. • Ireti Bobb, Director of EI Services, stated that there was a billing rule that NYEIS did not recognize. Clearing out the waivers is a daily manual process for BEI. Providers can contact Regional Office, NYEIS Administration, or Ireti Bobb for assistance. • Nancy Calderon-Cruz asked if billing and payment issues are expected to get better or worse when the system moves to a single statewide fiscal agent. Rick Kennedy stated that EI Finance had posed that question to SDOH. • Dr. Helen Murphy inquired about the status of the RFP for the statewide fiscal agent. Dr. Casalino reported that the RFP is not out yet.
<p><u>REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MISSION</u></p>	<p>Oliver Trinidad, Chair, Policy Review Committee</p>



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<p><u>STATEMENTS</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A core group of LEICC members will review policy drafts. • Working with Lidiya Lednyak and Ireti Bobb, the committee will review current drafts of policies and procedures, suggest changes in the future, and review all procedures quarterly. • Committee will also engage content experts in meetings as needed. <p>Braden Josephson, Chair, Program Reports Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the Program Reports Committee is to share data with the community to improve performance. <p>Helen Murphy, Chair, Programs and Services Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is working on the Curriculum-Based Assessment Pilot Project discussed earlier. <p>Catherine Warkala, Chair, Transition Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee is working on web-based training modules and a parent-friendly pamphlet. <p>Braden Josephson, LEICC Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-LEICC members can join committees. Anyone interested should send a letter of interest and resume to Felicia Poteat. • Dr. Casalino mentioned that any LEICC member can join any committee.
<p><u>DISCUSSION</u></p> <p><u>UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u></p>	<p>Braden Josephson, Chair, LEICC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be important for the LEICC to consider the impact of the DSM-IV revision, particularly in the identification of autism spectrum disorders.
<p><u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u></p>	<p>Mindy Kassover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Kassover has been a physical therapist working in lower Manhattan for 29 years.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One reason for delayed service start dates and issues with ongoing service coordination may be a shortage of providers in the field. • Interventionists who are not office-based have less access to business supports, which may affect service delivery. <p>Carole Oshinsky:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Oshinsky represents the 0-3 Network. • It is helpful to hear what is going on at the State level. • There is concern about restrictions on agencies providing all (3) three service categories, particularly for those who work with special populations/diagnoses. • Dr. Braden Josephson noted that the restriction mentioned is in discussion at the State level, it is presently not in regulations. <p>Scott Mesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mesh is the Director of Los Niños. • It would be helpful to have definitions for the different audit ratings and information on the consequences of a “Fail” rating. • Mr. Mesh expressed interest in having a uniform parent satisfaction survey for EI. <p>Nina Lublin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lublin is an EI training specialist. • Phyllis Pitt was a respected friend. • Ms. Lublin expressed appreciation for the contributions of former LEICC members Marilyn Rubinstein, Linda Silver, and Dr. Barbara Schwartz. • On the topic of Ongoing Service Coordination, Ms. Lublin noted the impact on changes in mandatory service coordinator training that took place two (2) years ago. • It is important to recognize that families have many needs beyond EI and that there is a need to better delineate service coordination and social work.
<p><u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:43 AM</p>	<p>Next meeting: November 27, 2012</p>



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