

NEW YORK CITY EARLY INTERVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL (LEICC)		
6.30.21	10:00 AM	WebEx
LEICC Member Attendees	<p>Lidiya Lednyak, MA, PMP, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Early Intervention, NYC DOHMH</p> <p>Elizabeth Leone, Chair of LEICC</p> <p>Cara Chambers, MS</p> <p>Jessica Wallenstein, Ph.D.</p> <p>Mary McCord, MD, MPH</p> <p>Patricia Gray, Ed.D., LCSW</p> <p>Rosanne E. Saltzman, LCSW</p> <p>Simone C. Hawkins</p> <p>Sonu Sanghoee, MS, CCC-SLP</p> <p>Tricia DeVito, MS, Ed., SDL</p> <p>Yurij Pawluk</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 April meeting were approved.</p>	

SEICC Report and Bureau Updates

SEICC Report

Lidiya Lednyak provided a summary of the State Early Intervention Coordinating Council (SEICC) meeting held on 6/16/21.

Early Intervention Program Regulations Updates:

- SDOH provided additional clarification regarding upcoming regulatory amendments specific to Section 69-4.30
- Billing for group EI services
 - Up to 120 minutes per day as specified in an approved IFSP
 - Group EI service sessions – minimum of 60 minutes in length and maximum of 120 minutes in length in accordance with the child’s IFSP
 - Group size: two to eight children; use of 1:1 aides should be based on clinical appropriateness
- Section 69-4.30
 - Groups provided by a minimum of one approved and appropriately qualified early intervention provider and an assistant
 - Groups should consist of children with similar IFSP outcomes and include appropriate therapeutic approaches – Children participating in group EI services cannot also receive individual services (including push-in/pull-out services) while the group is in session
- SDOH did not provide a date for when this regulatory package will be posted for public comment

Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Updates:

- Task Force Goal: To develop recommendations for the Department to increase provider workforce capacity to deliver EI services
- The SEICC revised the charge of the Task Force to add a Telehealth Subgroup
- The SEICC voted to adopt the following Competencies for the Delivery of Evidence-based Evaluations and Services in the NYS Early Intervention Program.
 - Typical and atypical childhood development and behavior (birth-three)
 - Multi-cultural and diversity factors
 - Understanding the family-child dyad as it relates to routine-based interventions
 - Evidence-based family-centered best practices

- Reflective practice and supervision
 - Field work placement was not included as a competency but as a separate section to highlight it as a theme running through all the other competencies
- Telehealth surveys finalized and submitted to SDOH for state-wide dissemination
- Task Force agreed to develop a companion document for the New York State DOH BEI Competencies that will include the definitions, knowledge areas, and skills for each of the competencies to provide academic institutions more clarity
- Workforce capacity committee has begun to develop the companion document in partnership with LEICCs and local Academic Partners

EI Hub Implementation:

Key EI-HUB Implementation Dates

- Launch of EI-Hub Learning Management System: April 2021
- NYEIS will move to read-only status approximately two weeks prior to EI-Hub Go-Live
- NYEIS will likely be retired approximately 2-3 months after being moved to read-only status.
- EI-Hub Go-Live: Implementation delayed from May 2021 until mid-2022

Early Intervention Program Response to COVID-19:

- In March 2020, NYS deemed the EIP an essential service during New York On Pause
- As of March 24, 2020, all EI services in NYC were delivered by teletherapy exclusively
- On June 22, 2020, NYC released the EIP’s “Return to In-Person Services Action Plan During COVID-19”
 - NYC EI’s approach emphasizes flexibility and the understanding that it may be necessary to shift between in-person and teletherapy based on health status of the team and family members, and local health metrics and updated guidance
- On July 6, 2020, in-person home/community-based services, individual facility-based services, and evaluations could be provided
- On October 21, 2020, Early Intervention group services resumed with multiple transportation options

	<p><u>Resumption of In-Person Services:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention therapists and teachers eligible for COVID-19 vaccine as of January 14, 2021 • Currently, all Early Intervention services are available utilizing teletherapy and in-person with some service options only available in-person • To support the resumption of in-person home-based services and then group services, NYC released the COVID-19 Case Reporting Requirements for Early Intervention Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outlines the information that providers must submit to the NYC Health Department when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a group, home, or community-based setting ○ Working in coordination with EI providers, DOHMH intervened on approximately 200 confirmed COVID-19 cases by adjusting service delivery based on individual family and child needs. <p><u>Latest COVID-19 Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 23, 2021, New York State (NYS) Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that all Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 Declared State of Emergency have ended effective June 24, 2021. • All previous Early Intervention Program (EIP) Guidance related to COVID-19 remains temporarily in effect, including the provision of teletherapy as applicable. • Once the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention issues State Guidance, NYC DOHMH BEI will issue local implementation guidance and expectations.
<p>Data Report and Provider Oversight</p>	<p>Nora Puffett reviewed the data report. Data was presented on referrals, receipt of service, and children’s retention in the Program by borough and race. She also discussed Provider Oversight 2021 monitoring activities. In late spring 2021, BEI resumed annual monitoring. Every agency will receive an audit in 2021. Audits will be conducted off-site. The audit period will include all of 2020.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccines</p>	<p>Dr. Catherine Canary spoke about COVID-19 vaccines. The information she provided was from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are 2 mRNA vaccines currently in use with an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA): Pfizer and Moderna. For both, efficacy data were consistent across age, gender, race and ethnicity. There is one Adenovirus Vector Vaccine currently in use: The Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. This vaccine was granted an EUA on April 27, 2021. This vaccine is for individuals over the age of 18. All New Yorkers</p>

	<p>over the age of 12 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. More than 9 million doses have been given to NYC residents. Forty-nine percent of all New Yorkers are fully vaccinated, and fifty-five percent of all New Yorkers have received at least one dose.</p> <p>Dr. Canary also spoke about the emerging variants of SARS-CoV-2. There are currently 6 notable variants in the US that are being actively studied. These variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants. SARS-CoV-2 mutates regularly, so changes in its genome are expected. So far, studies suggest that the currently authorized vaccines work on the circulating variants. Scientists will continue to study these and other variants.</p>
<p>Improving Referrals and Bi-Directional Communication with H+H</p>	<p>Dr. Canary spoke about the EI referral process and project goals. New York City Health and Hospitals (H+H) obtained funding to address developmental screening in primary care. Part of this funding has gone to the development of an EI referral process through H+H’s electronic health record (EHR): EPIC. The EPIC referral process has begun as a pilot at 3 sites: Queens, Gouverneur and Bellevue. Future sites are: Kings County, Harlem and Jacobi.</p> <p>Project goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate EI referral by referring through the H+H EHR • Bi-directional information sharing between Early Intervention and participating sites where parents provide consent for sharing information • Improve retention after EI referral by creating a mechanism to get regular reports on the status of referrals • Track EI referrals from practices to ensure adequate referral rates and to support follow-up of referrals; preventing missed opportunities for referral and supporting parents who remain unsure about EI participation after referral <p>Progress to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly conference calls between EI and H+H initiative leadership • Info exchange process initiated between H+H and BEI in March 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For April and May, 100 children referred using this process across the 3 sites, with 63 children where parental consent was obtained to permit info exchange

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-directional info share allows H+H primary care providers to follow up with referred families as needed • Version 2.0 with improvements in EHR process almost complete and will be rolled out across H+H
<p>NYC BEI-ACS Foster Care Focus Groups</p>	<p>Dr. Jeanette Gong spoke about the NYC BEI and ACS Foster Care focus groups. BEI and ACS are holding focus groups to better understand and to address the drivers of delays in EI evaluations. NYC BEI and ACS plan to hold focus groups in FY2022 with ACS case workers, educational specialists and supervisors, foster parents, and parents of children in Foster Care. NYC BEI is currently developing the Screening and Facilitator’s Guides for each of the focus groups. This will include the questions and the selection criteria for all participants. The questions and screening criteria will be reviewed by ACS, members of the LEICC, and key advocacy groups prior to launch of the focus groups. BEI and ACS are currently developing a plan to recruit case workers, educational specialists, supervisors, foster care parents, and biological parents to participate in the focus groups.</p> <p>The focus groups will be performed by a consultant. The consultant will summarize the information gathered from the different groups. The results will be shared with the LEICC, and information will be used to inform current and future initiatives to improve timeliness and EI participation. Each participant will receive a gift card for their participation.</p>
<p>United for Brownsville Presentation</p>	<p>David Harrington from United for Brownsville (UB) spoke about the collaboration between the Early Intervention Program (EIP) and UB. He also presented an organizational chart on participatory planning for UB efforts. Data was presented on early intervention referrals citywide and in Brownsville by race.</p> <p>David Harrington introduced Aileen Gonzalez. She is the first early intervention ambassador for Brownsville. Aileen Gonzalez spoke about her role as the early intervention ambassador. She works as a liaison between parents and service providers. Ms. Gonzalez stated that the goal of the collaboration between UB and EIP is to increase referral and retention rates.</p>

<p>Inclusive & Family-Centered Infant-Toddler Care (iFam-iTcare) Research Project Results</p>	<p>Dr. Karen McFadden from the Early Childhood Education and Art Education Department at Brooklyn College spoke about the Inclusive and Family-Centered Infant-Toddler Care (iFam-iTcare) Research Project. She presented on the racial disparities in accessing EI services in NYC, the participants of the project, and the methods used.</p>
<p>Service Coordination Professional Development Institute Update</p>	<p>Dr. Patricia Gray from the Continuing Education Department at Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work spoke about the Service Coordination Professional Development Institute (SCPDI). The focus of the SCPDI is to support service coordinators’ engagement and retention of EI families with a focus on trauma-informed care, family-centered practices, implicit biases, and reflective practices. She spoke about the six SCPDI trainings and presented data on the number of registrants. Dr. Gray stated that for the Fall series, the SCPDI will perform the same six remote one-day trainings. These remote trainings will be offered during the weekdays (e.g., Mondays to Thursdays) from October thru December 2021. The trainings will continue to include reading materials, videos, handouts, tools, and group discussions and activities. To preserve the confidentiality of discussions during the trainings, the trainings are not recorded.</p>
<p>NYCDOE Early Intervention Transition Initiative</p>	<p>Dr. Jessica Wallenstein from the NYC Department of Education (DOE) gave Early Childhood updates. She spoke about the challenges facing preschool students with disabilities. She also spoke about preschool special education initiatives. DOE is looking to bring all nonpublic special education preschool programs into 3-K and Pre-K by issuing a contract enhancement. This enhancement will provide programs with additional financial resources so they can become financially stable, hire more teachers, and expand in districts where special classes are needed. The contract enhancement will also add services to 4410s so that preschool students with disabilities get the same 3-K and Pre-K program support as the rest of the city.</p> <p>Dr. Wallenstein stated that DOE is going to centralize enrollment for preschool special education programs. Placements are currently done regionally by CPSEs. The Office of Student Enrollment will take over this process to find children seats more efficiently and to align with 3-K and Pre-K enrollment.</p> <p>There are 4 other initiatives that the DOE is working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the 3-K expansion, add threes-only SCIS programs • Launch a site-based support team that will provide professional development and coaching on pre-referral and inclusion strategies for 3-K and pre-K programs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand EI transition support for families to increase outreach to families • Adding staff to CPSEs, including administrators, community coordinators and operations staff, to serve increased caseload and work with families to offer services in the least restrictive environment.
LEICC Committees Update	Dr. Jacqueline Shannon gave an update on Academic Preparation and Professional Development. She stated that the New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council (SEICC) approved the 5 competencies for the Early Intervention Program on March 23, 2021.
Public Comments	<p>No public comments.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.</p>