



# DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

99 MAIN STREET, DELHI, NEW YORK 13753

Amanda Walsh, MPH Public Health Director

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## *Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council Minutes*

<b>Meeting Date/Time:</b>	May 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024 2:00pm	
<b>Attendees/Title:</b>		
Mandy Walsh, EIO, DCPH	Christina Gardner, Accounting Supervisor, DCPH	
Kyra Shew, EIOD/Preschool Coordinator, DCPH	Melissa Thomas, PHN	
Jacqueline Vernold, Senior Account Clerk, DCPH	Rene Stratton, Program Coordinator	
Sara Leddy, Physical Therapist	Circe McKenney, Four County Library System	
Leigh Tiesi, RRS EC FACE Center	Alex Opie, Delaware Opportunities, Disability and Home Care Services Director	

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
Call to Order/ Introductions:	Zoom meeting opened by Mandy Walsh, EIO, introductions were made.	
Approval of Minutes:	The November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023, minutes were approved as written.	
Guest Speaker: Four County Library System- Summer Programs	Circe McKenney, Professional Development Coordinator for the Four County Library System, spoke about the 4 County Library System. There are 12 libraries that serve Delaware County and they are housed within 13 buildings. The libraries have free access to a wide variety of books and other materials for all ages. They offer a free comfortable space for families as well as provide interactive activities including story time, arts & crafts programs and summer reading programs. A bookmobile is featured in several towns around Delaware County.	
BEI Updated/ New Regulations	There were 12 updated/new regulations. A few of those were implemented on February 14 <sup>th</sup> 2024. - The number of documented clock hours of experience delivering services to children under five years of age has been reduced from 1600 to 1000.	



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Topic:	Discussion:	Action:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supplemental hearing evaluations are no longer allowed as part of the multidisciplinary evaluation.</li> <li>- Service coordination training must now be completed within 4 weeks after the department approves/designate that individual to be a service coordinator.</li> </ul>	
EI Municipality Monitoring Review- 2/20/2024	Acentra New York now had a contract with NYSBEI to provide the consolidated monitoring review of EI providers, EI provider agencies, and municipalities. A DCPH municipal review was provided on 2/20/2024 with no findings.	
EI HUB update	EI HUB launch has been pushed back to October 2024. Counties have requested in person and regional trainings to help prepare for the launch. A speech provider has chosen not to continue to provide EI services due to new EI Hub requirements.	
EI Service Coordination reports/trends/needs/gaps:	<p>Our part time speech and part time occupational therapist positions remain vacant as well as our full time speech language pathology position. We initiated a targeted recruitment campaign beginning in April 2024 using some of our public health infrastructure grant funds. We will continue to reach out to colleges, canvass students returning to work locally and potentially canvass retired therapists. We still have one vacant Program Coordinator position, and this position would also provide service coordination.</p> <p>There are a total of 62 children enrolled in EI, 4 waiting for speech services, 2 waiting for occupational services and 2 waiting for physical therapy services. Virtual services include 20 receiving speech services, 8 receiving occupational therapy, 1 receiving physical therapy and 1 receiving special instruction. There are 3 families receiving virtual services who prefer in person services and are on a waitlist.</p> <p>Rene shared that there several of her families in need of additional support. She has provided families with local resources for play and socialization such as the local library and has made referrals and encouraged families to look into Delaware Opportunities programs. Several families are also coming out of homeless shelters and are in need of furnishings and food and local food pantries and Delaware Opportunities are great resources. Families are trying to push towards virtual or phone monthly check ins rather</p>	



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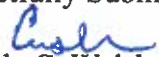
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Topic:	Discussion:	Action:
	<p>than in person visits. This is making it difficult for the service Coordinators and providers to really engage with the families.</p> <p>A speech provider servicing Delaware County has chosen not to continue to provide EI services due to new EI Hub requirements.</p> <p>EI enrollment has been noted to have a decline and many children do not enter the program until around the age of 2- 2.5. By that time, they are only receiving minimal EI services and having to prepared for transition to the pre-school program which can be very confusing and challenging for families. Preschool special education numbers have increased. There was group discussion about health care providers maybe having an impact on the late referrals, due to the provider turnover or having the child “wait and see”. Some parents are also declining services at the time of referral.</p>	
Sharing and Discussion	<p>Alex Opie shared about Delaware Opportunities having a new program called Family Opportunities. This program helps families with skills development and working towards being more self-sufficient.</p> <p>Leigh Tiesi shared that the lack of EI providers is statewide, especially with speech. Leigh shared how they initially meet with the families by holding a table event. Making families feel like you are there for them and not coming at them. That you as a provider are there for the family and their child to help guide them through the process. She mentioned that on June 11<sup>th</sup> they are having an event called Explicit Vocabulary program for parents. This is for children ages birth to age 7 to help with speech, language and vocabulary.</p>	
Meeting Adjourned at: 3:19 pm		

Respectfully Submitted By,

  
Amanda C. Walsh, Early Intervention Official

