



Department
of Health

Provider Workforce Capacity Task Force Update

EICC Meeting
March 9, 2023

Marina Yoegel, Task Force Chair
Lidiya Lednyak, Task Force Co-Chair

Task Force Members

- **Chairperson:** Marina Yoegel
- **Co-Chairperson:** Lidiya Lednyak
- **Parents:** Leah Esther Lax, Amy DeVito
- **Providers:** Steve Held
- **Muni Rep:** Heidi Bond
- **State Agency:** Elina Tsenter
- **Managed Care Rep:** Cheryl Hogan
- **DOH Staff:** Raymond Pierce, Peter Baran, Yan Wu, and Dawn Smith
- **Advisors:** Roxana Inscho (Monroe EI), Lynn Shea (EICC Member, Provider)

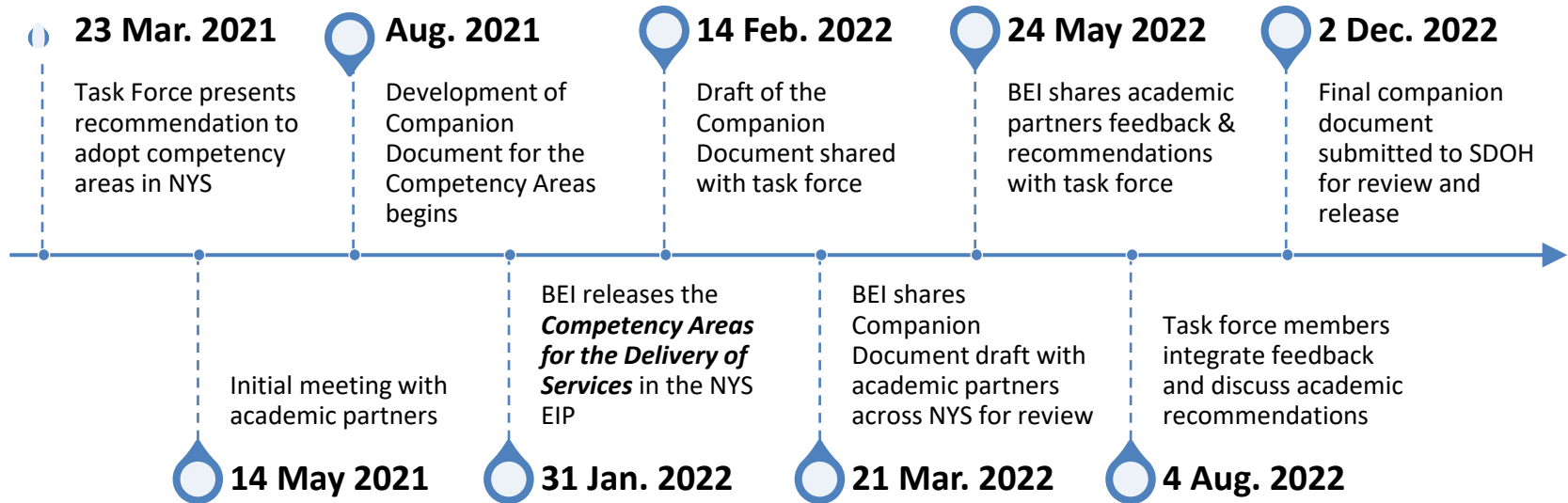
Original Task Force Proposed Charter

Charge: To develop recommendations for the Department to increase provider workforce capacity to deliver EI services to eligible children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. The objective is to improve timeliness of EI service delivery for children and families participating in the Early Intervention Program.

Recommendations from Year 1 and 2 of the Task Force to NY State EICC

1. Recommended reduction of 1,600-hour requirement by 1/3 to 1,000 hours
 - Recommendation forwarded to Regulatory Change status - motion passed at the June 10, 2020 SEICC meeting. Change published in Proposed Rule Marking - 9/28/22. Revision to be implemented once amended regulations are approved.
2. Recommended NY State consider rate structure
 - Targeted restructure of cost neutral reform to address equity and capacity in underserved areas including telehealth
 - Item moved to the Rate Setting Methodology Task Force to be addressed via targeted rate methodology restructure to identify zip codes within counties that are underserved - September 15, 2021 EICC meeting
3. Established subgroups within the Task Force to participate in the general Task Force meetings with a focus on Telehealth.
 - Task Force developed two separate surveys for parents/caregivers and providers.

Key Milestones: Workforce Capacity Subcommittee-Competencies



Task Force Update- Academic Partners Recommendations Timeline-August 2022-January 2023

- As part of the academic partners reviewed of the companion document additional recommendations were made in regards to addressing EI workforce capacity.
 - made recommendations for BEI to focus on: i.e. immediate vs. long term projects
 - some were more broadly focused on different ways to facilitate and support the use of the competencies in evaluations and services in NYS.
 - immediate –BEI to create a web page off SDOH main site to include: Competency and Companion documents, charts developed for each competency area, listing of all resources for academic partners to allow easy access to integrate content into curriculum across all disciplines. Good way to build workforce capacity.
 - BEI agreed to the web-page recommendation, SDOH approval

Task Force Update- Academic Partners Recommendations Timeline- August 2022-January 2023

- BEI to look at field work placement options in EI, regulations, engage the Office of Professions and SED on the conversation around meaningful field work placements that count towards certification and licensure in EI across all disciplines.
- Accept settings, i.e. childcare, community and home; integral to EI and component of competence in the delivery of EI services; currently EI field work placements require students to complete extra hours/classes.
- Expand the opportunity for experienced clinicians in other fields to peruse EI.
- Identified supervisory structure needed in field work placements across disciplines and cultural diversity training needed.
- Campaign to promote EI across local and state professional organizations.
- Work with academic partners to develop a presentation on the opportunities in EI for current workforce and future workforce.

Task Force Update – Workforce Research Timeline- August 2022-January 2023

- In order to examine and act upon the recommendations made by the academic partners to address structural issues in NYS impacting EI workforce capacity, the NYC Early Childhood Research Network was engaged who expressed interest in funding a research project to review Clinical Practice Acts across disciplines and make recommendations about gaps in fieldwork placements and identify opportunities for inclusion of the competencies.
 - NYC Early Childhood Research Network is a project of the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute and the City University of New York (CUNY), which Bridges research, policy and practice for early childhood
 - Creates a space for research partners to collaborate with City agencies and funders to provide evidence for better policies and practices for New York City's youngest children and their families
 - The Heising-Simons Foundation is a funding partner that is supporting this research

Task Force Update- Workforce Research Timeline- August 2022-January 2023

- Specific Research Tasks

- Conduct a close examination, research, and analyses of the rules, regulations, and requirements governing pre-service preparation in:
 - NYSED Office of Higher Education for certification in Early Childhood Special Education
 - NYSED Office of the Professions for licensures in OT, PT, and SLP
- Submit report to NYSDOH BEI through the SEICC Workforce Capacity Taskforce with recommendations for the regulations for certification or licensure in the 4 disciplines:
 - Identification of the current regulations that should be updated
 - Recommended language to update the regulations to correlate with the 5 EI competencies and evidence-based telehealth and family-centered best practices
 - Recommended inclusion of fieldwork placements with infants and toddlers (birth to three) and families in EI settings (e.g., home, community, and bilingual)

Task Force Updates

- Committee discussed status of the telehealth surveys; agreed that the surveys should be sent out again for updates since context of teletherapy has evolved.
- BEI sent Telehealth surveys to the Committee for review and comments.
- BEI and WFCT reviewed and approved the CUNY Research Network scope of work
- Committee met with CUNY research team on Feb. 6, 2023 to review deliverables and timeline
- Website request can move forward, BEI requested a write up of the placement of webpage and content; committee to start a draft, pending final BEI final Companion doc. approval
- Committee discussed the need to start the review of the 2006 - Co-Treatment –Co -Visit doc. to provide clarification and content for multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary EI provider teams.
- Committee requested BEI promotional campaign materials; BEI sent to members -Feb.3, 2023

Next Steps

- Review BEI Telehealth surveys – recommendation for required updates.
- Waiting for final BEI approval -Companion Document
- Committee will begin draft content for web page, pending BEI approval.
- Review and make recommendations to the 2006 Co-visit guidance document to address collaboration to support transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams.
- Proceed with CUNY Research Network project.
- Review BEI EI promotional campaign materials.

Questions

