In the past 3 years the providers of the New Jersey Early Intervention System have been devastated by the improper handling of the implementation of the Early Intervention Management System (EIMS) back in 2018-2019, and more recently from the effects of COVID-19. As a result, provider agencies providing direct services to the children eligible for Part C of IDEA have suffered dramatically losing millions of dollars in reimbursement and jeopardizing the fragile Early Intervention System.

At present, the providers are receiving approximately 65% if their annual revenues with no consideration of financial assistance from the Department of Health. Other Departments in state government have recognized their essential workers with emergency payments to support the continuation of direct services to the most vulnerable citizens of New Jersey.

We believe that the NJDOH should be more innovative in their approach to service delivery by offering incentives to the practitioners and supporting the infrastructure of provider agencies. The fact that practitioner rates effectively have not been increased in the past 16 years is a testament to the lack of recognition of the critical importance of the overall system, avoidance of the forces of competition and cost of living, and the acknowledgement that all eligible children deserve the best opportunity to reach developmental milestones.

We respectfully request consideration for the following:

1. The NJDOH should immediately increase practitioner rates by 9% ($15M in State funds). This includes the 5% reduction in rates levied against the EIS providers back in 2009.

2. The NJDOH should conduct a rate study to determine appropriate rates of reimbursement that take into account the competitive environment and differential factors related to in-home therapeutic supports vs. center-based services; travel for interventionists; and geographic disparities across New Jersey.
3. The NJDOH should advocate on an annual basis to financially support the EIS and give consideration to indexing the fee structure as a permanent solution to addressing the annual cost of living changes.

4. The NJDOH should reimburse those provider agencies that incurred “damages” under the EIMS implementation process.

5. The NJDOH should provide additional funding to provider agencies for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The initial allocation was greatly appreciated and fully expensed early on in the COVID crisis. PPE for practitioners and families will be a necessary protection long into the future, if not permanently, and should not be accounted for within the rate of reimbursement.

The ABCD EIPA offers ourselves as a resource to the NJDOH and to members of the Legislature in the advocacy, resolution, data collection and troubleshooting of any of the above topics that attempt to improve the Early Intervention model in the State of New Jersey.

For additional information, please contact us at (609) 581-8375.

Patricia Carlesimo, Chair, ABCD EIPA
Cathy Chin, Executive Director, ABCD

The ABCD Early Intervention Provider Association (EIPA) has been in existence since 2006 and has been a tireless advocate for improving the Early Intervention System (EIS) and making recommendations to the NJDOH that foster provider sustainability in a competitive and changing environment. The thirteen member organizations of ABCD EIPA operate independent of one another and collectively provide services to more than 60% of the total number of children served in the State of New Jersey.

March 1, 2021