

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 729 OF 2022

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS SEEBER, HOGAN, BRAYMER, LEGGETT AND DRISCOLL**

### **RESOLUTION TO ENACT AN EMERGENCY SYSTEM TO ADDRESS THE SCARCITY OF PROVIDERS OF THERAPEUTIC SERVICES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION CARE**

WHEREAS, prior to and throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, New York State has observed a growing insufficiency of speech, occupational, physical and applied behavioral therapists to render related services to care for our children with special needs both in-the-home and early intervention settings, and

WHEREAS, counties are responsible for ensuring that services developed in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) begin in a timely fashion, namely thirty (30) days from the date of the authorization, and

WHEREAS, counties are required to assign providers to a child's IFSP that have current provider agreements with the State Department of Health and are listed by county in the New York Early Intervention System (NYEIS) database, and

WHEREAS, providers listed in the NYEIS database are frequently unavailable to provide services to a child due to a variety of factors, including the area in which the child resides, providers only accepting referrals for one or two children enrolled in the Early Intervention Program (EIP) due to other commitments, full caseloads, or outdated listings for providers who no longer participate with the Early Intervention Program, and

WHEREAS, because of the decline of participating and available providers, counties are not able to provide the Early Intervention services required under the law, even to already enrolled eligible children, sometimes, leading to placement on wait lists, and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that the growth and brain development of infants and toddlers is at its highest in years 0-2, and the developmental progress of children identified with special needs could be hampered by any delays in services, and

WHEREAS, the Standing Committee on Children with Special Health Care Needs has historically called upon the State to incentivize the aforementioned career paths to increase qualified candidates, and while that is one solution to a multi-faceted issue, many children have been left with little or no provisions and there are no permanent systems currently to pro-actively address when counties and have hit critical levels, and

WHEREAS, it is with great awareness that needs can fluctuate with each child and setting; however, we should do our best to have a system to call upon in the event of a provider shortage, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls upon the Governor of the State of New York and the New York State Legislature to do a needs analysis report with each county to quantify

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and identify provider need over the last 3 years to gain an understanding of the state of scarcity, and be it further

RESOLVED, a plan to establish a pool of retired or licensure candidates to operate under a licensed professional in the execution of an IEP, IFSP or 504 plan be created, and be it further

RESOLVED, this effort, inspired by the spirit of Executive Order 4 “Declaring a Statewide Disaster Emergency Due to Healthcare Staffing Shortage in the State of New York” specifically mentions services related to nursing within Subdivision 5 of Section 6907 and Section 6908 of the Education Law related to the use of graduates of State Education Department registered, licensure qualifying nurse practitioner education programs to be employed to practice for 180 days immediately following successful completion of a New York Registered license qualifying program, provided that the graduate files with the State Education Department an application for certification...” as well as the ability to “practice nursing under the supervision of a registered profession nurse” be a guide to how an emergency pool of providers could be generated, and be it further

RESOLVED, this plan should be seen as temporary, and usage evaluated yearly, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall forward copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.