



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member, 15th District

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Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

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Karines Reyes
Assembly Member
District 87, Bronx
New York State Assembly

Bronx Community Board 6 has been alerted to dire issues facing Early Intervention providers in New York State. Early Intervention (EI) programs provide therapeutic and support services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities.

Your district is home the McCarton Center, an early intervention provider in the Bronx (1909 Longfellow Avenue). In October 2024, New York State's Bureau of Early Intervention rolled a new system for processing authorizations and payments for services from EI providers, called EI Hub. The McCarton Center reports that through EI Hub, authorizations have been compromised, payment delays have become extensive, and sensitive family data has been exposed. The McCarton Center is operating at diminished capacity and reducing staffing due to EI Hub. EI providers asked the State not to authorize the this new system due to its many issues in its testing stage, but NYS proceeded with awarding the \$53 million dollar contract for the EI Hub to the Public Consulting Group (PCG). The New York State Comptroller asked the NYS Bureau of Early Intervention to maintain the previous portal operational in case there were issues with EI Hub, but the recommendation was not followed.

Providers argue that the EI Hub is crippling the EI program, in similar ways to the negative consequences of PCG's EI processing system rollout in New Jersey in 2018. Relevant context on PCG's history is a 2017 report from the New Jersey Office of the Inspector General which revealed that PCG improperly altered school employees' data entries to falsely indicate Medicaid-related activities. A 2022 report from the United States Attorney General's Office in the District of New Jersey stated that PCG entered into a settlement agreement to resolve allegations of causing improper claims for payment to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, resulting in a \$2.5 million payment to the United States. 13,000 concerned residents have signed a petition calling on Governor Hochul to take immediate action on EI Hub.

Community Board 6 asks that you use your office to advocate for the children of New York State who receive EI services. We ask that you prioritize EI services in the upcoming state budget. We are concerned that the administrative barriers created by the newly implemented EI Hub are preventing children from receiving timely services and preventing providers from being paid, which destabilizes the industry of professionals serving our children.

Regards,

Evonne Capers
Chair
Bronx Community Board 6

Kristine Rivera
Health & Human Services Committee Chair
Bronx Community Board 6