



NEWS

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Commissioner of Health

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Orange County Health Department Receives Perfect Score On State Review of Early Intervention Program

Goshen – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana and County Commissioner of Health Dr. Jean M. Hudson are proud to announce that the Orange County Department of Health’s Early Intervention (EI) program received a perfect score in its recent New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) IPRO review. IPRO, the national organization *Improving Health for the Common Good*, provides a full spectrum of healthcare assessment and improvement services that foster more efficient use of resources and enhance healthcare quality to achieve better patient outcomes. IPRO is contracted by the NYSDOH to conduct an independent evaluation of county programs. The Early Intervention program is reviewed triennially.

“Congratulations to Dr. Hudson and the entire Early Intervention team for achieving a perfect IPRO score on their recent evaluation,” said County Executive Diana. “They are truly committed to the development and well-being of Orange County’s young residents – this accomplishment is testament to their dedication and expertise.”

Orange County’s Early Intervention program provides services for children from birth through three years of age who are found on evaluation to have development delays in one or more of five areas: communication, activities of daily living (eating, drinking, sleeping), cognitive (learning), physical (hearing, moving, using hands), and social/emotional (relating to others). Approximately 2,000 children receive services through the County’s Early Intervention program each year. A nationwide initiative, the goal of Early Intervention is to prepare families to help their children learn and develop to maximize their abilities and be prepared to enter the school system.

“I have spent many years working in the public health arena and have never before heard of a perfect IPRO score,” said Dr. Hudson. “I am exceptionally proud of the outstanding care and service being provided by our County’s Early Intervention team; they are an invaluable resource to the families and children with whom they work.”

The IPRO review is based on interviews of Early Intervention staff, as well as a review of documentation, time-frames, service initiation, and other areas of programming.

For more information about the County’s Early Intervention program, contact 845-360-6630 or visit the Health Department pages on the County website at www.orangecountygov.com.

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Orange County Department of Health Early Intervention (EI) staff Carol Abenanti, EI Supervisor; Bridget Kolka, Initial Service Coordinator; Sheila Warren, Director of Early Intervention; Sue Lee, Preschool Special Education Coordinator; and Kathy Grupp, Initial Service Coordinator, received the Making a Difference award from the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention in 2010. The team's expertise was again recognized with a perfect score on their recent IPRO review.