

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY AUGUST 19 at 2pm

School districts from across the state were part of the meeting. Below are minutes. Pass these on and let others know they can join in the calls. 1-800-444-2801. The code is 4010981.

Report from DHCS Meeting with Education groups, DHCS, CDE (August 7th)

Below are notes from the DHCS stakeholders group meeting

RTC

- DHCS admitted that the RTC program is not working. They want to go back to CMS and tell them that they tried but the RTC plan does not work
 - o Need to come up with something different
 - o LEA reps made the point that schools can't be asked to redo the invoices again, nor do they want to do a 3rd round of justifications
 - o According to DHCS, CMS has stated they don't want teachers on the claims; the only exception is special education teachers
 - o It was pointed out that with the RTC, school districts are trying to fit their participants under the set caps. This does not reflect the real hours spent. Districts are asking to sign off on invoices that are no longer true. What is being created is a record that cannot be audited since it does not reflect actual circumstances
 - o They asked for a postponement until June 2015 from CMS but the group said schools could not wait that long for payment and a resolution needed to be arrived at quickly so everyone could move forward with the RMTS
- Decision was to create a workgroup with LGAs, LECs and Tanya Perry (Bear Valley) and Cathy Bennett (Sac City) volunteering to participate on behalf of LEAs to come up with a solution that could be presented to CMS to resolve the RTC issue. Meeting was to be held August 11

RMTS

DHCS has asked CMS that the RMTS start date be postponed until January 1, 2015. CMS has not responded so the current start date is still October 1, 2014.

At the Stakeholder meeting with DHCS on August 6, LECs and LGAs reported they were moving ahead with contracts with PCG. Questions were asked about the terms and conditions. Nothing has been finalized but payment would be based on a per participant charge. LECs would offer contracts for extra services like invoicing. There would be an add on for these costs to the per participant rate. Final costs to the LEAs have not been calculated. DHCS asked to be informed about the cost structure when it is finalized.

Report back on Monday, August 11th Workgroup meeting with DHCS

Below are notes from the workgroup that was formed to try to develop an alternative to the RTC

Tanya and Cathy had met prior to the meeting to go over sample RTCs that DHCS had provided. These were samples of approved and denied invoices. They reviewed comments submitted by the LEA workgroup so they could present school district issues. Below are questions that were formulated to ask DHCS and responses

- What is it that CMS is looking for in the RTCs?
- Answer: CMS won't tell DHCS what they are looking for. Further explained that they don't want to see general education teachers on the claims
- What does DHCS want?
- Answer: They want to eliminate justifications – too much paper, their analysts can't manage what they have received

Two alternate plans (A & B) were developed by the group and discussed for submission to CMS by the end of the week/early next week. What is reported below may not reflect the actual proposal since it was based upon notes taken at the meeting. Tanya and Cathy are waiting to see the proposals in writing from DHCS.

Plan A)

- Invoices must meet the bottom line RTC benchmarks posted in PPL 13-012
- o No Justifications will be accepted - cannot include positions not on TSP list; cannot justify TSP Group 3 & 4 % Overages; or Overages on benchmarks

Only Exceptions will be:

- General Ed teachers allowed for Small/Rural Schools
- *LEAs or COEs that are Special Ed only
- *LEAs with Family Resource Center Models

Plan B)

- Invoices must meet the line item RTC benchmarks posted in PPL 13-012
- o No Justifications will be accepted- cannot include positions not on the TSP list ; cannot justify for TSP Group 3 & 4 % Overages; or Overages on benchmarks)

Only Exceptions will be:

- General Ed teachers allowed for Small/Rural Schools
- LEAs or COEs that are Special Ed only
- LEAs with Family Resource Center Models

Tanya and Cathy asked about a global cap of 27 or 37%- this is what you get when you add up the percent benchmark caps for all the billable codes. This is the explanation for a global cap using the code percentage total 37/27% . – DHCS did not like this option because they had concerns about overages on the line level with participant's time.

To see if this global cap is appropriate for your invoice go to your original invoices- page 1 total the code percentages

Do codes 4,6,8,10,12,14 & 15 total exceed 27% ?

Do codes 4,6,8,10,12,14, 15 & 16 total exceed 37% ?

The other suggestion was a negotiated settlement – DHCS said – they are going there.

On the call LEAs were asked for their feedback. Hellan had contacted Jen Brooks who said it was fine to share the proposals – Plan A and B with the group. The group was asked what are the pitfalls to the options presented by DHCS?

It was suggested that language in signing off on the invoices should be changed if there is some other agreement besides using actual invoices. Instead of signing that all the above is true; it should state that the above has been adjusted to meet the caps required by CMS – this will give LEAs more peace of mind when signing the RTC

Question: was asked about the participant list. If a position is not listed – does this mean the district can't justify?

Answer: Just because your job title isn't the exact same as one on the list, doesn't mean you can't make the titles fit. I.e. MAA Coordinator would fit under "student support services" (per DHCS)

Without having details in writing on the options from DHCS it was difficult to decide but there was a feeling this would still require going back to districts and have them do more work and would not get rid of the justification issue since there would still need to be justifications for the exceptions. There was consensus to try with the negotiated settlement or global cap idea. The Health and Human Services Agency and DHCS want to work with the education community on a resolution to the RMTS. One important factor is for the education community to get behind one approach.

SMAA/LEA Workgroup Minutes: 8/13/2014 @ 11am

It was reported that DHCS statement that CMS would not allow teachers on surveys had led CTA to contact the NEA office in Washington and ask them if this was the policy of CMS. Before this meeting, a paper describing the California situation will be produced and will include options. This paper will be shared with the education groups that are part of the stakeholders group meeting with DHCS- CDE, ACSA, CTA, CSBA, LECs, LGAs, and CCESA. Other groups, CASBO, CSNO and CSEA offered their support

Update: The request was routed back to the Region IX office in San Francisco. A meeting is now scheduled between CMS, CTA & NEA for August 27th in San Francisco.

Audit of School Based MAA program

Senator Liu, chair of Senate Education has requested that the Bureau of State Audits perform an audit of DHCS's School MAA program.

Update: The audit was approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on August 14th – see attached