

NEXT MEETING: 9/24/2014 at 1:30pm

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. New Conference call number is: 1-800-914-8405; code is: 1785191#.

Meeting with John Mendoza and DHCS on 9/5

- Hellan met with John Mendoza who is Interim Director of Safety Net Financing. Jennifer Brooks has moved on to another position in DHCS. Staff was also present. We are hoping to have a positive working relationship with John and move the resolution of the RTC forward so we can implement the new methodology. We extended an invitation for staff to visit school districts so they could see firsthand how these programs operate in the field. A list of outstanding issues to be resolved is attached.

DHCS Meeting with CDE

- DHCS reached out to CDE with a request to provide a general overview of relationships with schools and districts
- Sue Vang (CDE) and Jeremy Ford (Oakland) were in attendance and reported on the meeting
- Meeting was appx 90 minutes and mostly covered basic questions i.e “How can a general education teacher participate in an IEP?”
- Majority of their questions were trying to determine what each job classification was responsible for – this cannot be generalized as many staff members in districts have a “title” but partake in many different roles throughout the district. Further the trend is towards community schools and the “whole child” so roles will be becoming more blurred.
- CDE/LEAs did not get a chance to address their own questions
- DHCS does not seem to understand that the education world is not equivalent to the health world in terms of how the agencies operate. While health care providers in a hospital/rehab setting typically do job-specific tasks, in the education setting they can have “other duties as assigned” which may include Medi-Cal outreach type functions.
- In education, roles are multi-functional – one person can wear many hats; this is difficult to categorize. Further decisions on roles are driven by the districts so there is a great deal of variation amongst districts.

DHCS Autism Meeting

- CMS has issued a new policy allowing Medi-Cal billing for a range of for children with Autism. This is the website for more information:
 - <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/BehavioralHealthTreatment.aspx>
 - ABAinfo@dhcs.ca.gov
 -

DHCS, Behavioral Health Treatment Advisory Committee (BHT) held the first of 5 public stakeholder meetings to discuss the implementation of this benefit. They are looking for public comment so that the benefit can be adequately implemented for beneficiaries and providers. Comments are due by Sept 29, send them to ABAinfo@dhcs.ca.gov.

- BHT will submit the State Plan Amendment (SPA) on Sept 30th but will adjust policy throughout the next few months.
- Rick Record from Safety Net Financing, the division of DHCS which manages school Medicaid programs, was in attendance at the meeting along with Jeremy Ford (Oakland) and Rose Uranga (Veritam). Safety Net Financing did not speak during the meeting and left shortly after the meeting started. It may be because implementation of this benefit in the schools will be handled separately through Safety Net?
- DHCS held a public hearing to discuss the implementation of this policy for managed care plans and for Regional Centers. They are looking for feedback since they need to submit a State Plan Amendment (SPA). Comments are due by September 29th.
- Safety Net Financing, the division of DHCS which manages school Medicaid programs, was in attendance at the meeting along with Jeremy Ford (Oakland) and Rose Uranga (Veritam). Safety Net Financing is just becoming aware of this issue for schools.
- There was little discussion about schools even though this could be enormous boom for schools – i.e. money for classroom aids.
- Many regional centers were present at this meeting
- It was reported by the BHT organizers that it was their understanding that <5% of all autism services are provided by schools? Most services are currently coordinated by Regional Centers.
- Jeremy alerted organizers that not all autistic kids go to the regional centers for assistance, but all autistic kids are present in schools –

The group on the call discussed ways that schools might assist DHCS:

The LEA Billing option consultant, Navigant (paid by LEAs) could help DHCS understand how to implement this new CMS policies in schools. This was brought up when Hellan met with John Mendoza

SELPA – aware of issues taking place in CA (Hellan met with SELPA lobbyists and made her aware as well)

- Schools need to be included in stakeholder meetings regarding the implementation of the policy because of the potential for a significant increase in reimbursements.

Reported from the Field

- Denial letters were received but there hasn't been follow up after justification was submitted.
- DHCS has been unable to provide dates and status for districts on their claims. It was suggested to discuss with LEC or LGA
- Timeline should be posted this week – feedback was received from districts and will be sent to DHCS today. Final comments are attached

- Region 10 has asked school districts to provide a list of participants but there hasn't been training people on who can participate in MAA. This is a bigger issue with classifications in the RMTS and what will be counted. (see above for the discussion of this issue between CDE and DHCS)
- PCG stated that there were 3,000 moments to be recorded. This is not true – there are 2,761

LEA/LEC Contracts

- LECs/LGAs want schools to sign new contracts
- Schools can't sign new contracts since PCG has not agreed to terms regarding prices. The bulk of work falls on the LEA coordinator
 - o It is up to them to do most of the legwork
 - o
- LACOE has sent an e-mail that the contracts are coming
- PCG has not signed any contracts with LECs/LGAs
- Extra training could cost appx \$2k
- What will this contract actually cost?
- LEAs will have an addendum to contract with their LEC/LGA
 - o Nobody has seen this document

Upcoming Events

- September 17th Call on Settlement
- NAME conference 9/16 – 9/19
- **Next SMAA/LEA workgroup call: 9/24 at 1:30pm**