

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 6th at 11:00 AM

School districts from across the state were part of the meeting. Below are minutes. Pass these minutes on and let other LEAs know they can join in the calls. New Conference call number is: 1-800-914-8405; code is: 1785191#. We will be muting lines for the call. To unmute, press *7

RMTS Implementation Meeting

DHCS is holding weekly calls with LECs/LGAs and members of the stakeholders group which includes: CDE, ACSA, CCSESA, CSBA & 3 LEA representatives (LAUSD – Sherry Purcell, Bear Valley – Tanya Perry, Sac City – Cathy Bennett). The following is a report from the meeting of October 27th

- LEA representatives asked specific questions and were not able to extract direct answers
- Question: Who has contracts?
 - o DHCS did not respond
- Question: What is DHCS' role in oversight on contracts?
 - o DHCS: we have no role in oversight
- DHCS did not know the status of the contracts; Tony Teresi took a poll during the call
 - o Region 1: contracts are out
 - o Region 2: contracts have been set w/o RMTS; will modify once plan is approved
 - o Region 3: contracts are out
 - o Region 4: contracts to go out during week of 10/27/2014
 - o Region 5: contracts to go out by 10/31/2014
 - o Region 6: contracts to go out by 11/4/2014
 - o Region 7: contracts are out – costs are the same as they were in 1999
 - o Region 8: contracts will be sent in 10 business days from 10/27/2014 – they are still discussing fees
 - o Region 9: contracts were sent out in Spring – prior to the RMTS debacle, a letter will be sent on RMTS details
 - o Region 10: there is an existing contract with an addendum; there are no fees yet as they are waiting on PCG
 - o Region 11: was not on the call – however districts in region 11 have expressed that no contract has been sent out
- Question: are there any consequences set for districts that are not ready to implement RMTS o January 1st? – DHCS does not believe this will be a problem
- Concern: school boards are prohibited to retroactively approve contracts. Contracts cannot be presented to school boards for approval without specific details. Additionally, many boards will need more time than what is left to approve the contracts
 - o DHCS did not provide comment
- Question: How can RMTS be started without a contract?
 - o DHCS did not respond
- Question: How can participant pool lists be created without training and contracts?

- Concern: fundamental information is being requested from the LEAs for the RMTS program but the LEAs feel they can't respond without first being provided with training or uniform guidance. Each LEC/LGA seems to interpret the Manual or PCG's instructions as they choose. This is a problem.
- DHCS mentioned that if the contracts are not in place, school districts will not be able to participate in RMTS/MAA
- Equivalency form:
 - o PCG form no longer includes the district title – any authorized person can submit; therefore there is a concern with program integrity
 - o DHCS is talking about exceptions – certain positions that may differ from authorized ones

General Discussion on RMTS:

- Question from group: Can a broader umbrella be developed to include other positions with a small group of outliers?
- RMTS manual: there are concerns since the manual is still wrong in places
- Question: When is the MAA coordinator training? Can MAA coordinators attend the coder training? Is there a MAA coordinator training?
 - o MAA Coordinator training – to be hosted by LECs and LGAs, not DHCS
 - o Coder Training – MAA Coordinators cannot attend
 - o Participant Training – will be provided in form of on-screen prompting when moments are completed
 - o Concern: it is frustrating for MAA coordinators to not be able to attend coder training
 - o If a coordinator is not trained on coding, how can they review the list of moments and respond if they don't know what they are looking for

Deferral – Meetings with HHS & Senator Feinstein's Office

- Attending were: Maria Thomas - CSBA, Hellan Dowden, Adonai Mack –ACSA, Dolores Duran Flores- CSEA and Estelle Lemieux- CTA in San Francisco on October 27th
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- Dianne Feinstein's office (Sean Elsbernd and Crystal Martinez from DC office on the phone)
 - o Suggested getting the Governor's office involved on the deferral issue
- Bonnie Preston, Region IX Coordinator for the HHS office in San Francisco
 - o She was brought up to speed regarding the 40% issue
- She spoke with CMS and was told that LEAs were in agreement with the 40% and that a meeting was held with districts on September 17th where this was discussed. We told her this was not the case and that we had not seen the letter of September 25th that CMS cited in their response to DHCS.
- Martha Alvarez (San Diego) met with the HHS office based in D.C.
 - o CMS is not willing to negotiate with individual LEAs
 - o All negotiations should occur through DHCS

- DHCS and CMS are shifting the blame onto other parties

Actions:

- Districts throughout CA have been reaching out to their local congressmen
- Suggestion: set up a meeting with the governor's office –
- Bonnie Preston will write a letter to HHS in D.C.

- LEA Workgroup is trying to look at the data to see what factors influence claim size.
 - Demographics such as district size, family resource center, special education, etc could be considered
 - Number of Medi-Cal students and claimed amount per student might be used to develop a range where claims could be paid if they were within that range
- Hellan will be meeting with John Mendoza on the 30th to bring up issues raised by the group

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- Janice DiCroce (San Diego) and Hansine Fisher (HFA) were on the call along with Don Warkentein (West Hills Community Colleges)
- Don is scheduled to have a meeting with John Mendoza –and will report how meeting went

Questions/Comments from Group

- Have other states been in this situation – where the state department is not cooperating? Was it resolved? How?
- What happens if costs go up or if the LECs/LGAs/DHCS is not compliant?
 - How badly will LEAs suffer?
- PCG is requesting payment for additional training – this could cost up to \$3k/session
- Has anyone had a meeting with their local legislators?
 - Can those legislators make a call to the governor's office?
- The timeline for RMTS is too tight to have everything together and resolved by January 1st, 2015
- How can one provider (PCG) be responsible for the whole state?
 - LEAs need options in providers for if/when PCG changes the playing field by:
 - Increasing costs
 - Playing favorites with districts that bring in more money
- LEAs carry the liability here and they are not being heard

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