

**NEXT CALL: Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM**

**Webinar: Is Your District Ready for RMTS? Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup> 10AM – 12PM.**

*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#.***

### **Deferral Issues:**

- **Back Casting proposals (these were presented to the RMTS group which consists of the LECs/LGAs and 3 LEA Reps plus DHCS**

#### Proposal #3:

- CTA developed a document using DHCS and CDE data as an alternative to back casting (needs assessment spreadsheet) that looks at specific demographics within school districts. These demographics include:
  - Total enrollment
  - Percentage of special education students
  - Medi-Cal percentage
  - Number of students on free and reduced price lunch
  - Number of family resource centers
  - Number of ESL students
  - Number of students in foster youth
- By crunching numbers with this data, we find that most districts are within an average range.
- We can come up with a back casting methodology using this data

#### Proposal #2:

- Use LAUSD data and back cast against this. The positive is districts wouldn't have to wait until 2018 for full payment. LAUSD wasn't asked about using their data and responded that it wouldn't be relevant and wondered if it would be relevant to other districts.

#### Proposal #1

- Region 8 (Kern County) suggested a proposal displayed as proposal #1 in the "Back casting proposals background" document
- Possible scenarios using the 3% of time in MAA were run and show losses to districts at about 60% making the 40% payment number look sensible from CMS standpoint.

**Action Item:** run the equation with your own districts numbers to see what paybacks will look like. Feel free to contact Jeremy Ford (Oakland) if you would like assistance. [Jeremy.ford@ousd.k12.ca.us](mailto:Jeremy.ford@ousd.k12.ca.us)

A back casting proposal is due to the feds by the end of January 2015

- **Payments**  
DHCS has said that payments should be received by the end of 2014

○ **TSP Issues:**

- There are issues about the participant pool list and how to deal with positions that don't have the exact title of those on the list. A simple crosswalk will show that the position is similar to the one on the participant pool list.

DHCS is looking at other ideas – they are putting the TSP equivalency form on hold

- “We’ll get back to you on this”
  - This is especially frustrating considering the lists are due on 11/21 and DHCS has yet to get back to districts regarding the form as of 11/20/14

- There is no guidance from DHCS on how to do TSP lists, train coordinators, etc.

Equivalency list → use positions from LAUSD and states for districts to provide a request for alternate positions to be used in place of the LAUSD positions

- This presents a problem because the LAUSD job descriptions were not provided with this form

- How can districts know if positions they have are equivalent to LAUSD positions without having a job description to compare it to?
- Even if all LEAs submit the equivalency forms, DHCS has to review them all before moments can be pulled

- This is unlikely to be completed before the first quarter of RMTS scheduled to start January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

- When the equivalency forms were sent out (Nov 17, 2014) no guidelines on how to fill out the form were sent with it – the form simply said “please use this form to request alternate positions to be considered”

**Action Item:** LEAs should talk to their LECs/LGAs about requirements on TSP equivalency form

Mendocino COE asked their LEC about the positions list

- Her LEC specifically told her to remove certain positions from the list because they would not be approved by DHCS in time for the first quarter of RMTS scheduled to start January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- LEC also explained that the only way to include alternate positions is to prove on the form that the program cannot run efficiently without said position – although this is the only way for alternate positions to be included, it is unlikely DHCS will approve them before the first quarter of RMTS scheduled to start January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Lancaster asked a question regarding their TSP lists as well

- They were told that the TSP list was already submitted for upload onto PCG
- They have not heard anything else

If CMS pulls moments out due to position titles then, what happens to the money billed?

- This will affect everyone in the consortium until it is settled

## **RMTS Implementation:**

### **1. What Is Wrong with CA RMTS?**

This background piece raises issues with how RMTS is being implemented. It was shared with Stacy Fox (DHCS) who is the replacement for Jen Brooks

She seems to be open to issues the LEAs have raised

- She read the document and requested that LEAs also provide ideas for solutions to the problems presented

**Action Item:** LEAs – please come up with possible solutions and send to Hellan or Ruchi

### **Number of Random Moments**

Some districts have been told that 3,000 moments would be counted in her region's cost pool

- When she asked about the discrepancy between the 3k and the official RMTS manual 2761 moments she was told "this was a LEC wide decision"
  - LECs do not have the authority to be making this decision
  - This shows inconsistency statewide
  - The official manual says 2,671 moments will be recorded

PCG said that Tony Teresi (DHCS) approved 3k moments

- If this is the case, it needs to be in writing

## 2. Coder Training:

- The coder training that took place on 11/18/2014 was more of a 'code review'.
- The training was inadequate as a coder training for Central Coders because it did not fully explore coding issues in the depth the Central Coders will need.
- Attendees were seated in an auditorium and were not provided any handouts
- The slides were rushed through, leaving many attendees left confused.
- Many coding questions were answered with "we will get back to you." There was no indication as to when that would happen.
- The training was supposed to be 4 hours long and only lasted 2 hours
- This training is important because the coders are the ones deciding what is included in billable time in an invoice.
- It was reported that CMS is moving towards disallowing IEP related events not be filed under Code 8. This will result in a huge loss in terms of reimbursements.
- Additional trainings will be scheduled as needed and may be webinars.

## 3. Contracts:

- An annotated contract was sent out with a one pager that highlights the problems
- The LEC contract covers 27 counties (attached is a Word version so you can make changes
- Show this contract to your business department so that you may be aware of the things that have been written in a one-sided manner in favor of the LECs/LGAs
- The proposed LEC contract takes away the roles of the school districts but leaves them with the majority if not all of the liabilities
- Contract gives LECs/LGAs more authority than the law gives them

## RMTS Webinar:

- We will be hosting one more workshop titled "Is Your District Ready for RMTS?" This workshop will take place in the form of a webinar – additional details to follow.
- **The date for this webinar is December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**
- **The NEXT MEETING will be on: DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:30 PM**