

NEXT CALL: March 3rd, 11am

Conference call number is: 1-800-914-8405; code is: 1785191#. We will be muting all lines for this call: to contribute to the conversation and un-mute, please press *7.

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.

Minutes: 2/20/15

Update on Deferral Proposals–

The last week was spent in negotiations.

The deferral letter was to first go out in January 30th. That was extended to Feb. 6th. David Nebin from CTA, did runs that showed the real amounts districts would lose. The amount was close to \$460 million dollars of the \$850 million owed with a possibility that after back casting this would be returned but not until December 2018. Some district could not spend the interim payment of 75- 49% since the might have to pay back some of the amount after back casting. Many school associations and districts felt this was too harsh a remedy and could not agree to this solution. New proposals were presented by DHCS but there would have still been great losses for the school districts and no increase in the overall amount

In working with organizations including CCESA, ACSA, CSEA, CTA, Small Schools and others a meeting was held at the Governor's office on February 18 to see if the deferral issue could move beyond DHCS so it could be an education issue.

People/Organizations in attendance at the Governors meeting were:

CTA, CSEA, Jay Hansen from Sac City and CSBA, ACSA, County Superintendents, Tanya Perry from Small Schools, Jeremy Ford from Oakland Unified, Janice DiCroce from San Diego LGA, LEA SMAA Workgroup, San Diego Unified, Karen Stapf Walters and Carolyn Pfister from the Board of Ed, Katie Heindorn from the Health and Human Services Agency, Dana Williamson, the Governor's education Advisor and Donna Campbell the Governor's health advisor

it was agreed to that a updated settlement would be sent to CMS by the due date of 2/20/15. the settlement is as follows:

Straight settlement- those districts under \$25,000 would receive 100%. Everyone over \$25,000 would receive 75% of their claims. No backcasting. Therefore no additional work would be required in justifying positions. It would all be considered part of the settlement. Because of the original settlement letter the same language was included in regards to Turlock, they would get 25%. Full payment to school districts would be due by March 31st.

It was a productive meeting where key political people from the governors' office attended. A straight settlement was able to be presented. This goes directly to CMS.

Moving forward: The Stakeholders group and education community must advocate for the proposal presented to CMS.

Get the word to your congressional and legislature members

RMTS

Current issues with RMTS:

- Follow up with Clarifying Questions asked by coders is still an issue. Participants only have three calendar days to respond. This is a problem when Monday is a holiday so by Tuesday it has expired.
- Fed. Vs. state regulations: Ex. Is the three day response for CQ's a federal rule or is it set by the state? If it is a state rule, can DHCS allow what is best for CA in compliance with the maximum of what the federal regulation will allow?
- We have people who never respond to the question. All that means is that they have to code it as it is. It does not push it into an invalid moment as long as they responded within the 5 days.
- Some districts were sent a notice about people having to put in split shifts to account for participant's lunch breaks. The assumption is that everyone one takes lunch at the same time every day. That requirement is questionable as the non-working time can be counted as invalid.
- We need quality assurance on Coding. If all coding is different throughout the state it will be an issue later on if there is an audit.

These issues need to be documented throughout the quarter. RMTS was to help have more control and uniformity. And everyone is doing it differently. The way moments are being coded are not being consistent and that is going to be a red flag to the feds. If the coding is poor in the consortium that you are in there may be issues later on.

PCG Report Update:

- May or June will be when School Districts receive this quarters report according to PCG- Florie Wong.
- PCG is gearing up with rosters for quarter 4. However, there is no uniformity on how that is being communicated to districts.
- Is it possible to have more access to the recorded moments that have passed? This is an issue to be presented to DHCS.
- More transparency is needed so that the coding issues that arise can be addressed in "real time."

- The PCG manual states that the results of the quarter would be available 30 days after it has ended so is the May June dates out of compliance

No Trainings have been scheduled.

LEA Billing Option

There will be a meeting this Wednesday (Feb 25) In Sacramento. This meeting has not set agenda yet. However, recommendations of priority issues have been sent. Updates and a report of what is discussed and the meeting will be included on the next call.

Meeting participants: Navigant has finished their interviews and three COEs and six LEAs representatives have been chosen to participate. These include Cathy Bennett(Sac City), Dawn Bray (Beaumont),Melissa Lovick (Downey) Janice DiCroce(San Diego LGA), Sherry Coburn(San Joaquin COE) Debbie Woods (Bakersfield), Margaret Roux (Kern LEC) Orange COE plus Renzo Bernales from CDE and Michelle Kristoff and Tony Teresi from DHCS. (not sure this is a complete list)

Budget hearing concerning days has been scheduled for April 20 more details to come

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