

## **NEXT CALL: Tuesday March 17th, 1:30pm ( time change)**

**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.***

3/10/15 SMAA LEA Minutes

### **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Where:** San Marcos High School

1615 W. San Marcos Bl.

Assistant Principal's Conference Room

San Marcos, CA 92078

**When:** [Friday, March 20th, 2015](#)

**Time:** 9-12

*Noon-1:30 lunch will be served during a special workshop on retention and enrollment strategies*

Please reply to this email to RSVP or to Dawn Bray [DBray@beaumontusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:DBray@beaumontusd.k12.ca.us)

Also, please respond if you have items you would like to be included in the agenda. Agenda to be emailed out by [Wednesday, March 18](#)

## **Update on Deferral**

A letter was sent to Congressional members from both Senators and Assembly Members who signed on to support the proposal made for 75% with no back casting. Thanks go to Assemblymember Bonta, Chair of the Health Committee, and Senator Pan.

### **Letter to Congress:**

Calls have been made to various leaders in DC. The State has not heard a response yet.

Meetings have been scheduled for this week with leaders from region 9 and with Federal officials in hopes of moving the proposal forward. Education organizations are in support of the proposal. NEA is contacting HHS in DC.

Congressional letter circulated by Zoe Lofgren -

If you haven't already, here's how you can contact your congressional representative and educate them about the issues. You might let them know that Representative Zoe Lofgren letter that mirrors the letter from the Legislature asking CMS to sign the proposal submitted by DHCS on 2-20.

- Name of your representative: find your Congressional representative by entering your zip code here: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
- To contact your representative: click the email icon by your representative's name to go directly to the 'Contact' page of their website, or just click their name and navigate to their 'Contact' page.
  - If your representative has a contact form on their website, you can write your message directly into the form and send from there.
  - If your representative has an email address listed, PDF your letter and send it to the email address as an attachment.

### **Release of funds:**

School districts were asked to sign a letter regarding receipt of their deferred funds. After being contacted by the workgroup, DHCS changed the wording that referred to "settlement" and it now states it as an "interim payment." Funding to those billing between \$25 and \$50,000 will be distributed next. The goal is by March 31<sup>st</sup>. There are many invoices to be processed and so it will take longer. The money you receive will be 40% unless there is a settlement in the next few weeks. Districts would later receive a supplemental payment for the remainder of the funds. As of now those under \$25,000 should be receiving a payment.

There continues to be a concern regarding Kern County and the Kern County LEC. They have received 100% of their money since 2009. The question is, why is it that other LEC's and LGA's were not given the same opportunity as Kern County? Kern has received over \$14 million in SMAA funds. If they had been treated like everyone else and impacted by the October proposed settlement, they would have received \$8 million. DHCS mentioned last March that 200 invoices have been paid. Are those invoices from Kern County? These concerns will be addressed to John Mendoza and DHCS. It is a question of equity and fairness.

- It was pointed out that the CMS findings said the states methodology was flawed (reason for changing to RMTS) and this along with being fraudulent is the an argument for school districts not receiving 100 Kern received 100% by using the same methodology so this is contrary to the initial argument.

### **RMTS**

#### **CQ Procedure:**

DHCS had asked for feedback on the final CQ procedure. Comments during the call included:

The CQ procedure refers to section 6 in the manual, yet DHCS still has not provided a copy of their updates to section 6 of the manual, this section which gives definition to all the codes. LEAs have prior submitted suggestions, and it was noted they were not considered; one suggestion was to eliminate the

timeframe set for a TSP to answer the CQ, that this was an unnecessary administrative burden to LEA and LGA/LEC coordinators, if the CQ was not answered by the end of the quarter, then the senior coder would code without the CQ answer. At this time senior coders review all CQ's and can issue them along with the primary coders.

Timelines for the CQ going out from the coder is crucial. It will now be during work days and during business hours. However, the 5 day reply policy is still in place. These changes may be seen in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. It is also noted that coders should be mindful of for upcoming breaks and holidays. LEA Coordinators should remind TSP's the importance of responding quickly to moments and CQ's before the upcoming breaks and holidays.

### Coding Reports

DHCS was reminded that LEAs need to verify unpaid and paid time off, and asked when they would be receiving the quarterly coding report- DHCS was thankful for the reminder, and said they would get back to us.

Also noted to the SMAA LEA group : There is an email regarding Kern County and the fact that they have not yet coded any moments as of yet. **New Codes for no response and vacant positions:**

Code 17- not working, not paid

Code 18 – no response (employee cost attached)

Code 19 – invalid due to no response because the position is vacant. (no employee costs)

At times it is unclear as to when to use which code. It depends on if there is response and if it can be verified or marked as invalid. Every moment has to be coded whether it is invalid or valid. Codes can change depending if the position is 100% federally funded, if the moment was not responded to, or an administrative error was included on the roster.

### **Last 5 days of the school years are declared as holidays:**

DHCS said they received the ok to block the last 5 days before school break as vacation- so moments will not go out.

This directive concerning the last 5 days scheduled as a holiday from your LEC or LGA should be added to the audit binder in case of a CMS audit. LEC and LGA's have been adding this holiday (off duty) time period to the calendar.

### **DHCS stakeholder's call- Issues to address during the Monday calls:**

- RMTS policy needs to be more clear state what is allowed according to CMS regulations not by the vendor's software capabilities.
- Updates to policy should be officially presented on the website and not sent out via email only.
- Website should be the central location for communication for everyone.
- Can Minutes of the Monday stakeholders calls also be available to access on the website?

## **RMETS coding issues and DCHS policy request**

Scenario 1:

**If a vacant TSP position is selected for a Moment what happens to the moment?**

- How are these Moments coded?
- Steps for MAA coordinator (do they remove the TSP in the software?)
- Steps for LGA/LEC Coordinator
- Steps for Coders

Scenario 2:

**A moment is generated to a TSP, yet they are out on paid sick time and did not return until after the moment expired (they missed the 5 day before window and 5 day after window)**

- How are these Moments coded?
- Steps for MAA coordinator
- Steps for LGA/LEC Coordinator
- Steps for Coders

### **TSP list- Changes for quarter 4:**

Changes can be made to quarter 4 list and submitted. However there have been issues with the PCG system not showing the updates, but instead including participants from the previous quarter. Participants have then needed to be deleted individually.

Please review your updated submission even if it has been certified. If there are discrepancies please have your LEC or LGA notify PCG. This is a PCG system error and they will give further instructions.

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