

SMAA LEA Workgroup Call Minutes 6/8/15

1. Deferral Update

No new information at this time. Waiting for response from DHCS. They were asked to give CMS the backcasting proposal submitted by CTA and the SMAA LEA Workgroup.

Continue to expect payment to school districts by the end of July: below is an e-mail received by Senator Hernandez, chair of the health Committee when his office inquired around payment.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is finalizing the process to resolve all deferred claims for the School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA) program. We anticipate submission of the final package of invoices to our Accounting Section before mid-June which means that the Los Angeles County Office of Education would receive a check within the next six to eight weeks. DHCS wants to ensure that individual school districts will not be required to issue payments for any monies that may be owed to the state, therefore this required the development of a very detailed invoice netting process which created the delay in processing the payments. DHCS used the netting process to subtract payments owed to DHCS from payments DHCS owed to claiming units. This ensured that schools did not have to write any checks for amounts owed. DHCS appreciates the patience of all SMAA stakeholders.

2. RMTS Implementation

Friday 6/5 call minutes attached - notes in Red

Topic items from call below:

(Item 1) Moment Expiration

- Problem with holidays at end of quarter 4, TSPs are not receiving late notices because the system identifies the last days as non-student attendance days.
- Expiration date of July 15 instituted for all districts that didn't have student attendance days in July, to give time for all TSPs who had moments in the days before the end of the quarter to respond. Districts with attendance days in July were to complete in the 5 day time frame.
- LAUSD did say that their program has moments up to the last day of school and there is a push to ensure that TSPs respond to their moments before they check out for summer break.

- Discussion with PCG: It will be on the agenda for the Contractor Summit in July 16-17.

A Contractor Summit was discussed during the call with DHCS on Friday. Attendees would include all LEC/LGA's, DHCS and PCG. Meeting possibly to take place on the 16th and 17th of July. There was also a workgroup mentioned that is working on the software updates and issues with PCG. The specifics and participants of this workgroup still need to be clarified.

A memo will be sent to Michelle Kristoff at DHCS listing reasons why LEA's should be included in the contractor summit meetings. The reasons given are as follows.

- Manual
- Coding Issues
- Software Issues
- Reports to LEA's
- Timelines

LEA's will organize issues and suggestions relating to the topics listed to DHCS. There may also be a meeting with DHCS and LEA's to review details before the contractor summit meeting. Representatives from the LEA's are needed to attend this meeting in person with DHCS

The updated manual may be presented in July by DHCS.

Below is the memo written concerning the summit and the questions that were raised. DHCS response received from Michelle Kristoff about an invitation to the summit is in red. The original memo is in black. We will discuss on our next call:

Dear Michelle

Good to see you yesterday. We discussed why the LEAs were not invited to the summit Tony mentioned that you are planning for July 16-17. The LEAs are not only the end users of the system but pay for it and are responsible when there is an audit as we have all recently learned. Having their input is valuable. It also seems to be part of the policy by DHCS in

http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/DHCS%20Stakeholder%20Engagement%20Plan_9_2014.pdf

You suggested I write you a memo for you to consider.

First, I think there are a number of issues to discuss. We had a call yesterday with a number of LEAs. These are the issues they brought up. Some of these are the result of their school boards raising questions about the program:

- 1) Changes to the manual - There still are no notifications on the website. What is the proposed timeline?

DHCS organized a workgroup made up of representatives from LEAs, LECs, and LGAs to review the SMAA Manual and suggest changes. The workgroup has completed 95% of their work and once they are fully complete, DHCS will post the revisions to the web site and solicit comments from stakeholders.

- 2) Coding issues - Although Tony has said that they are checking with CMS regarding LEA live time review of moments, there has been no follow up and the end of Q3 is coming up. Also, with school letting out, when will LEAs be able to check their district's coding?

DHCS is currently working with PCG, and the LECs and LGAs to develop a comprehensive, user-friendly LEA coding report and a timeline by which to submit the report both to the LEAs as well as the LECs/LGAs and DHCS. Once that process is complete, we will make the information available. DHCS has also reached out to CMS to inquire about getting real-time read-only access to the coding report for the LEAs, and to PCG to determine how to operationalize this level of access. We will update the stakeholders when we receive the CMS and PCG responses.

- 3) Training- what is the plan for coordinators?

As per the SMAA Manual, Section 6-12, LECs and LGAs are responsible for LEA coordinator and TSP training.

- 4) Software issues. What changes are needed, what isn't working. What are the PCG deliverables that LEAS are having difficulty with? Moment notifications not going out 1 hour before the moment for TSPs. Coordinators needing late notifications the last week of school.

For the first 2 questions, LEAs need to work with their LECs/LGAs to determine any software changes that may be needed, what isn't working, and the PCG deliverables for which they are having difficulty. To ensure no moments were generated during the last week of school, stakeholders decided to designate the last 5 student attendance days as "holidays" which eliminates the possibility of moments being issued during that time frame. However, it also eliminates the late notices for moments generated in the prior week. This issue was thoroughly discussed on the

Monday morning conference call and everyone was aware that the coordinators would have to ensure their participants responded to their moments accordingly.

- 5) Timeline- how realistic is it? It's confusing to LECS/LGAS and therefore to LEAs

Need clarification on which timeline is being referenced and what specifically is confusing?

- 6) Reports to LEAs

The only report to the LEAs is the coding report. See response to item #2

- 7) Correcting and resolving coding issues- what is the process vs a formal appeals process. Need to make sure that LEAs can review their codes prior to any appeals process. (Similar to #2)

As discussed on the Monday morning conference call, the senior coder will have the ability to change codes in Quarter 2 of 15/16. Currently code changes are made by PCG. If approved, suggested changes are submitted to the PCG by the LEC/LGA.

There was a general issue of when issues are raised, what is the timeline for their resolution.

Issues are addressed on a case-by-case basis. Although there is no general timeline, DHCS works to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

Other issues involved the PPL dated 5 May. I think this doesn't need to wait until July for clarification. Does this apply to community colleges only or all k-12 schools as well? Are you saying that special Ed state funds which is a categorical need to be excluded. Does this apply to federal funds only?

The only PPL dated May 5, relates to the clarification on activities related to an IEP. If this question relates to the categorical funding issue a revision was posted on May 6. This PPL applies to both community colleges and K-12 schools. Categorical revenue, whether state or federal, is generally restricted to purposes for which the funds were established. If the categorical program restricts the funding or limits funding to a specific purpose, those funds cannot be used as certified public expenditures and cannot be reimbursed through the MAA program.

We would suggest since you are setting aside two days that first you identify issues with LEAs and also with the LECs/LGAs. After these are identified jointly develop a list that could then be discussed with the contractor PCG to see if they can be worked out.

Will that plan work for you?

This meeting is to review the technical aspect of the software system and suggest changes. The LEAs are not involved in the technical aspects of the PCG software. The intent of the Monday morning conference call is to engage all stakeholders and provide a forum for all interested parties to provide input into the RMTS process. The LEAs have and will continue to have every opportunity during this call to offer comments and receive feedback on any issues of concern. We feel the Monday morning calls is the appropriate avenue to discuss all of the items mentioned above and are outside the intent of the summit. Please let us know if you have any other questions, we'd be happy to look into them. Thank you.

hellan

(Item 2) Revised Quality Assurance (QA) report

- Question about the timing of the QA report – noted as 30 days after the end of the quarter, but what is the validity of the QA report if the procedure for LEC/LGA review of moments, “LEA review,” appeals, and certification is much longer. Margaret Roux pointed out the discrepancy in the form
- Question about #8, 9,10 of the QA form. LEC/LGAs do not have access to this information on their PCG software reports. It seems it's available to DHCS in live time, but not others. DHCS and PCG to work on this access.

It has been problematic that DHCS would ask for information LEA's don't have access to. DHCS didn't even know it wasn't available. Also, is this signed as a deliverable when the contract was signed with PCG? This needs to be addressed and clarified.

(Item 3) Timeline for Final Coding of Moments/LEA Coding report

- Tanya Perry had sent out a draft with suggested # 3 in the first section which was not distributed to the group. Tanya sent it out to everyone Friday morning. It is attached. The item pointed out the need for LEA review of moments with their LEC/LGA to make any corrections. Suggested that utilizing only an appeals process would be burdensome. Appeals would be for codes that could not be reconciled between the LEA and its LEC/LGA and be reviewed by DHCS.
- DHCS said they are asking CMS for LEA access to real time view of moments.

A spreadsheet should be configured that shows Moment details. It could have a column to highlight one moment at a time and hide the rest when needed. Then it can easily be reviewed. Currently the process is set up for data to be transferred, and the information is still not easily found when transferred.

The appeals process – Correction vs. Appeals. Correction would come before a formal appeal and would save time and be more affective.

(Item 7) Other Business (PPL document attached)

- Concern about PPL 14- 014 REVISED 5/6/2015 – includes State funds with Federal categoricals as duplicative. Should only be Federal categoricals. See attachment with notes.

This PPL will have a huge impact on school districts. This needs to be clarified by DHCS. What does Categorical in this PPL and what would be classified as a Categorical?

Next call Thursday, June 18th at 11am.

1-800-914-8405, Code: 1785191#