

SMAA LEA Workgroup call 8/21/15

1. Discussion of the SMAA Program Audit – Senator Liu's staff, Ed Honowitz will review

The audit report is available on the website of the California State Auditor at
<https://www.bsa.ca.gov/>

The audit report requested by Senator Carol Lui, of the School-based MAA program is now available to review in the link above. The audit completed by the Bureau of State Audits (BSA) lists several recommendations to the Legislature. Some areas the audit reviewed include the reasonable test criteria, the time survey's efficiency, translation services and the appeals process.

The audits recommendation that will affect the program the most is doing away with LECs and LGAs, and instead having a single statewide agency oversee the program. The audit stated that LECs and LGAs are not serving an effective purpose. The audit states that removing LECs/LGAs would be more cost effective and would help streamline the program. Other states (Texas, Illinois, Michigan) had programs, methodology, and structure were studied in the audit process and helped determine the BSA recommendations.

Senator Lui's office will review the recommendations and determine which should be included in legislation to enact the audit findings. The input of a stakeholder's workgroup, and all the agencies involved in SMAA will be critical in how the legislation is written, and what recommendations will be included. The goal is for any transition to be done smoothly for all involved, and for a reasonable timeframe to be implemented.

There are concerns regarding the audit recommendations. DHCS up to this point interacts exclusively with LECs and LGAs, disregarding the LEAs request for assistance. Their mindset will have to be changed. Many LEAs are concerned that DHCS will continue to disregard what is in the best interest of school districts. CDE taking a more active role in SMAA was not mentioned in the audit. However, in a 2005 audit, it was recommended, and that will audit will now be revisited. One solution could be an infrastructure implemented at CDE to support school health based programs.

A concern regarding the recommendation of a statewide program is the example of PCG. They are a statewide vendor. The experience for all agencies has been overwhelmingly negative. Also, will there be enough moments to make this an effective program for LEAs to participate in MAA? At this time it is not clear how revenue will change, and if DHCS will interact responsibly with LEAs without the intermediary

support of LECs and LGAs. An appeals process is not currently in place. This would need to change if the program became statewide.

Please share concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding the audit recommendations with the SMAA LEA Workgroup. A survey on the audit is attached for your input. It will be followed by a webinar to discuss with BSA.

2. Deferral

DHCS is going to issue a letter of clarification to LECs and LGAs regarding payments that have been issued, and how LEAs are to be paid. There is also a problem with the list of what is owed. The workgroup has asked for a list of what is owed but this has not been forthcoming. If DHCS cannot currently decipher what has been paid or what is owed, what are the consequences for LEAs.

CTA also offered a report and background research on backcasting. This was not shared with CMS. Though, the Governor's office said to work with DHCS. Now a solution is being worked on to share with DHCS and CMS. The last two quarters of RMTS will be used in backcasting. However, the numbers and results have yet to be shared. The concern is that LEAs will owe even more money. This is a problem as many districts have not yet received what they are owed.

Funding issues were referenced in the audit. The specific example is of Sac City Unified and Folsom Cordova and San Juan Unified. It is on pg. 47 of the audit.

3. RMTS

Training Issues – Clarification on use of materials provided earlier this month. Before the materials were sent out DHCS was asked for input. However, there was no reply. Later an email was sent from the state saying that the trainings shared should not be used. Later, John Mendoza, stated that a private group such as the LEA workgroup can use and share what they find appropriate for training with LEAs. However it must be clear that these are not state approved materials and only state approved materials can be used by LECs and LGAs. These materials must be sanctioned by the state before they could still be used. There was some indication that with some changes, what was sent could be used. We asked to be put in writing, but no replay has been received as of yet. From what was heard the training materials are great tool. They have especially helpful for TSPs where English is not their first language.

LEAs are concerned that school has started or is beginning, and that TSP lists are being made. However, there is no updated manual or guidance for LEAs. If DHCS cannot currently decipher what has been paid or what is owed.

4. Funding Possibilities for schools

The California endowment and CMS have matched dollars to provide funding to counties for difficult to serve populations. This includes undocumented children. The counties have money still able to be spent and it possibly could be allotted to school districts. One project counties could be asked to fund is for schools to help make sure that eligible undocumented children are enrolled in Medi-Cal beginning May 1st, 2016 when they will be eligible for full scope benefits.

Names of county coordinators with grant funding information are listed in the link below.

[http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/OE/OandECountyCBOList\(5\).pdf](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Documents/OE/OandECountyCBOList(5).pdf)

5. Next Meeting

**SMAA LEA Workgroup Call: Thursday, September 3rd at
10:30am
Number 1-800-914-8405, Code: 1785191#**