

SMAA LEA Minutes 8/25/16

SMAA Updates

This is a report from the recent meeting held with the DHCS –Education stakeholders group comprised of DHCS, CDE, CSBA, CCSESA, CTA three representatives from LEAs, LEA Workgroup on August 12th:

- The SPA (State Plan Amendment) to implement free care has not yet been approved. It was submitted last October and there has been a back and forth on it. It is also in the manual submitted on the 15th to CMS. Free care will allow schools to provide Medi-Cal services to non- IEP students. It will also allow for additional practitioners. CMS and DHCS are close to coming to an agreement on the SPA. As of now, the outcome looks favorable. Further discussion will be held regarding Free Care and all that it will mean for schools. (background paper is attached)
- There is an additional \$26-27 million dollars of SMAA funds that are part of a large DHCS departmental deferral of \$350 million dollars. DHCS will be meeting with CMS and they are hoping to have resolution on this issue soon.
- CTA researcher, David Neben, is working on information from the LECs and LGAs about the impact of the deferral and discussing what he has found with each LEC/LGA on the impact of backcasting on the LEAs in their regions. The goal is to have a joint strategy to bring to CMS regarding the deferral and backcasting.
- Categorical Funding: CMS had wanted to send a letter to CMS regarding Categorical Funding. However, CDE is now involved and it was agreed that they would have to sign off on any letter sent to CMS about this issue.
- SMAA Manual posted on the August 15th. DHCS has requested that CMS review the Invoice and IEP portion first. LECs/LGAs found minor changes that may still need to be made. Please review the manual and make added suggestions if needed. (Attached)
- The Data-Use Agreement is under review and may be discontinued to streamline the process. It was clarified that districts can use data for Medi-Cal eligibility and enrollment. This is important for Free Care. Districts will need to verify which students are enrolled on Medi-Cal to bill for services. It is possible it will be added to LEA contracts with LEAs. If this is done it could affect district's access to their data. Please send any concerns or comments about this to DHCS.

- The bill was amended on the 18th. Changes made include CDE now being the vice chair, changed dates, language clarification. DHCS is still concerned about the appeals process and their fiscal position has not changed. The bill was voted 63 to 0 off the Assembly floor. CCSESA has removed their opposition. It will go to the Senate Education committee, the Senate floor and to then Governor.

Medi-Cal Outreach-Free Back to School Programs – Myra Alvarez, The Children’s Partnership

- All In (www.allinforhealth.org) has a tool kit for school districts to use that includes Fact Sheets, Calendars, Family Flyers, Robocall Scripts, Medi-Cal and Dental enrollment information for families in English and Spanish. Please see the attached PDF for the full presentation.
- Teachers for healthy Kids is also doing outreach programs with schools. Contact Nina if you are interested

Next SMAA LEA Workgroup Call will be Thursday, September 15th at 9am.

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