

SMAA LEA Workgroup Call Minutes

Wednesday, November 15th at 10am

1. **Update on CHIP Funding**- Congress has not passed the funding for the old Healthy Families program that was folded into Medi-Cal - Mike Odeh modeh@ChildrenNow.org

The Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) builds on the federal Medicaid program. It has been around for 20 years and in California was known as Healthy Families before it was folded into Medi-Cal. Two years ago, funding for the program was reauthorized for 2 years, but this funding ended September 30 of this year. Congress has not been able to make progress in continuing the program. The House of Representatives passed a bill that would extend CHIP funding for 5 years. However, it also cut funding for other important programs like community clinics and Medicare to pay for the extension. The bill passed with bi-partisan support and now goes to the Senate. It will need 60 votes to pass. This may not be done until December. In California there are 2 million children and some pregnant women that care covered by CHIP. These beneficiaries are at risk. CHIP funding pays for children in families at 133%-266% of poverty. The cost of the federal government ending the program would be \$2.7 billion. School districts may communicate to student families that Medi-Cal is open and continue to advocate for extension of funding.

California CHIP advocacy resources: <http://health4allkids.org/toolsfororgs/childrens-health-insurance-program-chip/>

2. Deferral

There has been an update from CMS. DHCS said that they are clarifying some issues and getting further approval from upper management before formally submitting the alternative backcasting methodology to CMS. It continues to be a concern that DHCS has not yet submitted anything to CMS.

3. Vendor Worksheet Discussion

The LEC's are redoing the Vendor Worksheets. There is a cap of 15%. These recalculations could impact school districts negatively. LEAs will potentially see their deferred reimbursement further reduced. Vendor Worksheets are due in December.

4. Schools and Health (link)

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6635a1.pdf>

There continues to be conversation with the Governor's Office on the need for an Office of School Based Health in CDE.

THK will be meeting with workgroup in DC to review the importance of CDE making a place to include school based health. The collaborative meeting to discuss what strides and challenges different states are making in school health services/programs.

5. Input for Discussion with DHCS Mental Health and Substance Abuse Director

THK and SCUSD's, Victoria Flores, will be discussing mental health in schools with Karen Baylor, Deputy Director at DHCS for Mental Health and Substance Abuse to review ways to increase mental health services in schools. The goal is to expand access through use of schools. Possible options are for school districts to contract with the county directly and offer services as a county contractor. The other is for contracted mental health professionals to be placed at school sites. THK will continue to initiate dialog on the potential ways mental health can be more accessible to students.