

SMAA LEA Minutes from 1/14/16

1. Quarter 2 for RMTS

Districts had great results for quarter 2 compliance, many at 100% participation of TSPs or near that percentage. Some districts need clarification for moments coded 17 or 18 for vacated positions. DHCS 17 and 18 Code document attached. All code details will be included in the new manual that will soon be released.

- Code 16- paid leave or unpaid leave of current TSP.
- Code 18 – invalid moment or no response. This code would count against your percentage.
- 17- not working or not paid.

Moments expiration has not been showing up in the system. LECs/LGAs with PCG will review this information in a meeting.

2. Training Slides – Feed back (attached)

Official DHCS training slides are now available for LEAs to use. In using these slide, please note any changes or suggestions you have. This can be shared with DHCS for future updates to the slides.

3. Coding issues from districts

IEPs are still an issue. IEP moments in quarters three and four of last year there were not counted. The issue is being addressed by DHCS in that they will make a case to CMS based upon. What the activity is that should count, not where it is done- ie during an IEP meeting.

Also, Behavior vs. Mental verbiage in activities has been problematic for LEAs.

It is recommended that LEA's review their moments carefully to identify which ones where they have issues. Let LEC or LGA know what the concern is. Data needs to be gathered to demonstrate what the issues are for all LEAs.

4. Appeals Procedure

DHCS has stated in the past that there are no issues with their policies as nothing has been appealed up to this point. LEAs must make an effort to appeal codes and policy

issues to show DHCS where there are problems that need to be addressed. Appeals must be made before the LEC/LGA deadline in June.

5. Discussion from DHCS Workgroup Meeting January 13

- DHCS is changing the workgroup with LECs/LGAs and LEA representatives. They will institute an action item spreadsheet so that there will be some documented resolution on issues and items brought to DHCS. DHCS will also be sharing minutes from their bi-weekly calls.
- Dispersal of Deferred Monies: A PPL that will address how to send out deferral money has yet to be sent to give LECs/LGAs direction.
- Categoricals: The PPL concerning categorical items is still being reviewed by DHCS and CDE.
- Increasing the Number of Districts Participating in SMAA: DHCS sent out SMAA marketing brochures for distribution to districts in encouragement of their participation. However, LECs and LGAs have not wanted to distribute them due past relationships with some districts.
- Translation issues at 50% vs 75% : Policy is being reviewed again. The policy is being interpreted as districts must have a full-time translator on staff to be eligible for enhanced rates. LEAs pointed out this is not practical at most districts who have many languages represented. (Following the meeting, more research was done to bolster the case that LECs/LGAs/DHCS was misreading the guidelines. Other information was provided which has a less restrictive view and would allow for more districts to claim the 75% reimbursement.
- Spreadsheets required by LECs and LGA's from LEAs are being reviewed and suggestions made to better streamline process. Other states processes are being used as examples. The suggestion is that the LEA's would only provide costs information.
- PCG software has been having many issues lately. LEAs are encouraged to bring any discrepancies or issues to their LECs/LGAs.

6. Manual Update

The Manual will soon be shared by DHCS. This document will be annotated. LEA's will have 7 days to review it and make suggestions for changes.

7. Deferral Issue

Some progress has been made regarding the deferral issue. There will be a meeting on Feb. 5th with DHCS and the Education Coalition. Results from the first couple of quarters will hopefully be reviewed before this meeting.

A proposal has been shared with DHCS – 14/15 Quarters 1 and 2 will be a mirror of 13/14 Quarters 1 and 2. When the backcasting is settled, whatever the result is for 13/14 will be the same for 14/15. However, in 12/13 big changes were made to comply with the program that removed many staff, clerical and teachers as participants. The program took a hit. These invoices in backcasting are treated the same as before the changes to comply. It will decrease the revenue. Some differentiation will still need to be made between quarters. Data and information has been put together and given to DHCS to review.

Next SMAA LEA Call will be
Thursday, 10 am 1/28/16
1-800-914-8405, code: 1785191#