

**SMAA LEA Workgroup call - Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am**

1. Concerns about Medi-Cal and the ACA

Presentation by Kristelle Jose, The Children's Partnership (What's Next for Families – attached)

There are concerns as to what might happen to families under the new administration. Federal update - The Affordable Care Act was voted on as part of federal budget reconciliation and fiscal changes are possible. As of now no changes have been made. The ACA will continue under the current policy since Covered California subsidies are covered by law and protected through 2017. Open enrollment is underway and ends January 31<sup>st</sup> 2017.

Medi-Cal update – Medi-Cal has now successfully expanded to undocumented children. Out of the 225,000 eligible, more than 137,000 are currently enrolled. Medi-Cal benefits also include dental services. Medi-Cal enrollment is year-round and has annual renewal.

Recently there has been a drop off in Medi-Cal renewals. Counties have begun to go through redeterminations and are sending forms to addresses listed at the time of application. If the address has not been changed and the redetermination form returns undeliverable, beneficiary is placed on hold. Families have 90 days to renew their Medi-Cal application or they will be dropped.

Another possible reason for reductions in Medi-Cal enrollment may be concerns about receiving benefits under the in-coming administration in Washington. Districts can help families maintain enrollment by utilizing the file received now for MAA percentage information as a way to do data matching so the enrollment status of the family can be determined and the families can be urged to maintain their status and reenroll within the ninety-day period so they do not have to reapply for coverage. This file can be run through a free data tool ([www.chipers.org](http://www.chipers.org)) to determine which students have recently dropped off Medi-Cal. This data will be important to any work with Free Care as well.

School districts departments (health services, student service, etc.) can support families and offer assistance by using the tools listed below.

- Health Enrollment Support (on-line link) – English [Teacher for Healthy Kids - CLICK HERE](#) (Spanish also available)
- Robo Call Script – See attached
- Health Care for All families TOOLKIT - <http://www.allinforhealth.org/allintoolkit>
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Please see document (ATTACHED) to share/review answers to common questions and concerns from students/families regarding changes to health care, DACA, enrollment questions and changes in the ACA.

The Children's Partnership is also offering a presentation highlighting areas of concern for families. Please contact [kjose@thechildrenspartnership.org](mailto:kjose@thechildrenspartnership.org) for scheduling a Let's Talk presentation. (ATTACHED)

## 2. Deferral Update

Thank you to those districts who sent backcasting invoice data. Please see the Backcasting Input Template. This document has been created and modified by Jeremy Ford, OUSD and David Neben, CTA consultant. The template has also been shared with DHCS. It reveals the results of backcasting for districts. Districts may input data and determine what they will get back/owe. The accuracy of the results is near 100%. This information can then be shared with Business Officers at your district.

District who would like additional support are encouraged to participate in the... Tutorial. You may also send backcasting invoice data to [ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.org](mailto:ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.org) for additional input assistance.

## 3. Update from Field

A District reported they are having difficulty identifying a physician willing to sign off on Medi-Cal OT prescriptions and speech protocol. Physicians are dissuaded from contracting with school to sign RX's for IEP OT services as they do not have hands on access with the students – with recent purposed guidance from DHCS/ A &I. This guidance is currently being reviewed by LEA AdHoc workgroup, A & I and DHCS legal department and is on the LEA Ad Hoc workgroup meeting agenda in February. Districts are encouraged to communicate concerns to [LEA@DHCS.CA.GOV](mailto:LEA@DHCS.CA.GOV)