

## **SMAA LEA Workgroup Call 1/28/16**

### 1. Review of DHCS Workgroup Issues

Communication with DHCS is improving. An Action Items spreadsheet will soon be available to list issues that arise and keep notice of when/how they are being addressed.

- Invoices are being reviewed by DHCS, LECs/LGAs with recommendations made to simplify the process. Currently there are portions of the current spreadsheet that are redundant. If this portion is removed LECs/LGAs would fill in data then LEAs would complete the form. Other suggestions including PCG or a third party create a report to be used instead of the spreadsheet were considered too expensive. LECs/LGAs are also concerned that their involvement in adding the random moment results would take too much time and/or add to their work load. However, a streamlined spreadsheet would be more efficient and accurate. It would also allow the districts to do the invoices without paying the LEC/LGA for this service.
- Reimbursement for translation services criteria is currently too restrictive. 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. DHCS will be sending a letter for clarification to CMS. The LEA Workgroup will be requesting the status of the letter and to review what is being sent to CMS to offer input.
- DHCS has created a SMAA recruitment brochure to share with former LEA program participants. However, LECs and LGAs do not want to circulate the brochure due to the negative state of their relationship with the former district participants. DHCS agreed to not circulate the brochure or recruit LEAs directly without involving the LEC/LGA.
- Codes continue to need clarification. LEAs do agree with the codes 17 and 18 definition given by DHCS. However, LECs/LGAs continue to discuss the need for clarification on these two coded, stating that code 17 should never be reassigned. Code 18 could also be more clear. LEAs are suggestion that both codes be defined and used as done at LAUSD. It was also brought up that when a TSP is on leave it may take more than five days to determine if the leave is paid or unpaid. This is common for Payroll as well.

- Due to the need of code clarification for codes 17, 18 and IEP issues, LEAs have not received percentages from their LECs/LGAs nor can they begin the appeals process until they receive a finalized report.
- It was suggested that there be a centralized place that could review codes to determine if they should be appealed. LEAs would continue to review codes with LECs/LGAs, but before beginning an official appeals process, they could send codes in question for further review. LEAs are encouraged to review all codes carefully and to question moments coded 13 or 14 if needed. These codes affect the whole consortium. When moments have been coded wrong and brought to the attention of LECs/LGAs it can be a training opportunity for coders.
- Suggested steps for LEAs reviewing their coding report:
  1. LEAs should review each coded moment
  2. If an LEA does not agree with how the moment was coded, the following steps should be taken:
    - a. Using a spreadsheet, or the coding report, identify the incorrect coded moment
    - b. Provide the correct code, and documentation by giving back up from the Manual – provide page or code description when identifying the correct code (even when it was because of IEP meeting)
    - c. Flag moments that were coded incorrectly because of the DHCS interpretation of IEP coding; this will help with gathering data, and making changes when/if DHCS changes/updates the IEP coding instructions.
  3. Provide your LEC/LGA with your list of codes requesting them to change.

Also, it would be helpful to start gathering some information from the LEAs regarding their percentages...

The LEA workgroup could send something like what is below to the LEA's to complete, and started complying data. Please review so it can be discussed during the next call- ( thank you Cathy Bennett –SCUSD for your work on this!)

Example:

LEA Name: (include LEC region/or LGA)	Total Number of moments	Total Number of moments in code:									Number of moments coded incorrectly	Number of moments coded incorrectly because of "IEP"
		4	6	8	10	12	14	16	17	18		
Sac City Schools/LGA												
FY 14/15 Q3	175	1	1	26	1	0	2	17	7	0	28	11
FY 14/15 Q4												

2. The manual is being reviewed by LEAs and suggestions are to be made to DHCS. Codes continue to be contradictory, including parallel codes and those addressing IEP issues. All questions and suggestions reinforce the need for DHCS to go to CMS for clarification on the IEP issue.
3. There will be a meeting with DHCS and the schools organizations regarding various issues on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. ( A copy of the agenda is attached and the outcome from the meeting will be shared on the February 10 call)
4. Next Meeting

**Next SMAA LEA Workgroup: Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

**Call number: 1-800-914-8405, Code: 1785191#**