

## NOTES FROM SMAA LEA Workgroup call 12/15/15

- **Deferral- Update**

On November 17 DHCS met with CDE and other Education groups such as CSBA, CTA, CDE, CCSESA, LEA workgroup representatives and representatives from the LGAs/LECs regarding the deferral and other issues. DHCS committed to reviewing the deferral data provided to them by the Workgroup. During the meeting DHCS did not share that they had been communicating with CMS regarding the deferral issue. Only later was it learned that they had an agreement with CMS on the settlement which was dated 28 October and had not shared this information with any education group. DHCS then sent a letter apologizing for the miscommunication and that it would not happen again. This letter is posted on the DHCS website (see link below). One positive aspect is that they are open to new data being presented. A case can be made to re-open the backcasting issue if data can be provided. The LECs and LGAs agreed to share data to determine if a case could be made. Preliminary data from several districts that was collected by the LEA workgroup was shared with DHCS. The figures regarding further paybacks from districts, particularly those who received 75% of their funding were alarming. For those who received 40% it was possible that large districts would owe half of what they received back once backcasting was complete, thus losing 80% of their funds. This the Workgroup felt did not relate to what might be considered as fraud in the program. There will be another meeting on 2/1/16 to discuss the issue again. DHCS said they want to review 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter data before going back to CMS. The validity of the methodology and previous decisions will also be reviewed. Letter from CMS on the deferral is posted (See link below)

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/SMAAWhatsNew.aspx>

- **Training Slides –**

The training slides are not yet completed. DHCS did take into account edits recommended by the workgroup. One concern is that is no description of MAA Program included in the slides.

- **BSA Audit response** (See link below)

The state had 90 days to respond to the BSA Audit. Their response is in the link below. DHCS will not implement the recommendation of a single state program or the appeals process. Other recommendation responses are currently pending.

<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/recommendations/2014-130>

- **Audits-** report from the field

CCSESA has had many issues with recent audits. They would like to put together a letter that addresses their concern. If you have had issues with an audit, please contact THK [ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.com](mailto:ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.com) and we will put you in contact with CCSESA

- **Manual** (See link below)

DHCS is trying to have it completed before the end of the year. Code issues and IEP language is still being reviewed. DHCS will be contacted about waiting until after the holidays so that more input from LEAs can be considered before the manual is complete.

[http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/ACLSS/SMAA/Draft\\_Manual\\_15\\_16.pdf](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/ACLSS/SMAA/Draft_Manual_15_16.pdf)

- LEA Billing Option <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Pages/LEAWorkgroup.aspx>

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

LEAs have recently received code reports from their LECs or LGAs. If a code needs to be appealed, please do so and give feedback and keep documentation. This will help reveal the issues with the current appeals process to DHCS. Overall, LECs and LGAs will adjust codes. However, districts have seen repeated issues with the manual being more restrictive than CMS regarding IEP language.

PCG has not fixed problem of 5 school days vs. 5 work days. They also changed the email address what LEAs received notifications from. DHCS bi-weekly calls may change. Updates will be shared when available.

- **Teachers for Healthy Kids Grant Opportunity**

THK is applying for a grant opportunity in January to help enroll and retain students in Medi-Cal. Districts may participate in this data driven enrollment tool. This will make Free Care funding more assessable for schools.

**Next Call will be on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

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