

## Minutes from 10 February Call

### Report back from DHCS/ Education Meeting 5 February

The SMAA LEA workgroup meets quarterly with DHCS. This meeting included representatives from the Education Coalition; CCSESA, ACSA, CTA, CSBA, and Carolyn Pfister from the State Board of Ed, Sue Vang from CDE. Representing DHCS were Lindy Harrington Section Chief, Stacy Fox, John Mendoza, Rick record and Tony Teresi from from the MAA staff and Katie Heindorn, Undersecretary of Health and Human Services. The items below were discussed during the meeting.

\* LEA SPA- 15-021 – The new State Plan Amendment was submitted in September 2015. On December 10<sup>th</sup> a request for additional Information (RAI) was submitted from CMS regarding Personal Care. Part of the focus of the SPA is to bring in new practitioners into the LEA Billing Option and to increase the number of services allowable in a 12 month period by lifting the 24 services limitation. The types of practitioners possibly added: Speech Assistance, Occupational Therapy Assistance, Respiratory Therapist. Personal care practitioners will be beneficial for school districts. Particularly in relation to Free Care. This is an expansion for schools that will allow services to be provided by districts to children enrolled in Medi-Cal. Currently, these types of services can only be provided to children with an IEP. Soon districts can bill for all Medi-Cal enrolled children who receive these services. It is important to make sure that all eligible kids are enrolled in Medi-Cal.

\* Deferral – DHCS has been asked to approach CMS about reconsidering the deferral. The LEA Workgroup has presented scenarios for DHCS to consider and RMTS percentages have been requested to better understand what LEAs can expect moving forward. During the last meeting with DHCS in November LECs/LGAs agreed to share this data, but have since refused, claiming that they are waiting for the Manual to be completed. RMTS percentages are important as they impact what can be claimed. This information could lead to a more cohesive argument in regard to backcasting. Two groups have been exempt from the deferral: Santa Barbara County Office of Ed Special Education and LAUSD. However, all 92 school districts served by the Kern County LEC, not just Santa Barbara COE received 100% of their money. There is no good answer as to why if the exception was only for Santa Barbara all Kern LEC districts were not part of the deferral. DHCS has been asked for additional information relating to this issue as well as information on the RMTS percentages since these will be applied backwards to the backcasted quarters.

\* SMAA- LEA Payment - CMS deferred \$150 million from the DHCS. About \$15 million of that is from school districts. DHCS will send out information on which districts are impacted.

\* Enhanced Translation- DHCS wrote a letter to CMS asking for clarification on who is eligible and if there are restrictions on job classification, specific activities and if there will be retroactive claiming possibly to 2009/2010. This will allow LEAs to be able to bill for 75% rather than 50% of translation

services. A copy of the letter was requested

\* IEP Reimbursement- The LEA workgroup worked with DHCS on a letter to CMS. DHCS sent the letter for review by the LECs/LGAs. CMS may address this issue when the Manual is submitted.

**Audits-** It is a concern for some school districts that auditors can be unaware of what participation or actions are included in claims. In moving forward with Free Care this may become a bigger issue as there seems to be a disconnect between DHCS and Audits and Investigations. LEAs are encouraged to remind auditors that anything that is not reimbursement is outside the scope of the audit. PT and OT issues also need to be reviewed as California laws seem more stringent than CMS guidelines. This issue will be discussed on a future call with more detail.

### **Free Care Discussion**

A Free Care webinar will soon be available tailored to the LEA workgroup. Details will be shared when available.

**Invoice-** The invoice with added suggestions from the SMAA LEA workgroup was sent in 2/8 to CMS. The invoice is now a modified version of the previous document. LECs/LGA's also added suggestions about equation carryovers. Sheets were removed which means less to input and less chance for error. The document was sent to CMS for approval. It is similar to the old invoice with a few adjustments to include RMTS. The suggestion is that it should be redesigned. In future, a workgroup may be formed to work on the project.

### **RMTS Coding Tracker and Results-** (Link below)

An RMTS web-form coding tracker is being created to log issues. It will be used to verify questions about codes in real time and where issues on coding can be discussed. The links below will be added to the [www.teachersforhealthykids.com](http://www.teachersforhealthykids.com) website when the formatting of the documents is complete.

The first link is a web-form for any district to submit to the workgroup an issue they came upon in the coding process, where they may not have agreed with the coding result  
[RMTS Coding Issue Tracker](#)

The second link will display the results of the web-form submissions. The sheet is updated real-time and will be a public link that anyone (with the link) can review and edit to provide comments and feedback.  
[RMTS Coding Issues Sheet](#)

### **Next Meeting Date**

Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30pm