

SMAA LEA Workgroup Call Minutes

Thursday, January 11th at 9:30am

1. The Governor's Budget was released allowing for more money for schools. It proposes \$3 billion to fund the LCFF two years earlier than projected and \$1.8 billion in discretionary one-time funding. Currently, the only available information is from the budget summary. More details will be shared as they become available.

2. **Deferral Update**

Discussion with DHCS continues. It has been difficult to receive any updates. DHCS received the alternate proposal and information regarding the drastic loss for districts due to backcasting. Specifically, districts who received 75% of their funding will owe even more back. The plan to expand Medicaid in schools with Free Care may not be as successful as hoped due to districts leaving the program and forgoing future liability. The deferral loss is also being addressed by the LECs and by CCSESA.

Districts are encouraged to file an appeal to the state over their losses. The appeals process will first go through the LEC/LGA and then be sent to the state. The more appeals filed can make a better case in appealing to CMS. For assistance in making an email please contact ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.org

3. **Report from the DHCS SMAA Call**

No updates or movements forward in this call which occurred on the 10th. This call is set up for expressing concerns, but there has been little to no response from the department on issues reviewed. The call is an improvement to not having any form of input or contact with DHCS regarding SMAA however, the productiveness of the calls can be improved.

There has been a recommendation of combining the SMAA and LEA BOP workgroups. DHCS said their response from districts has not been favorable for that change even though the LEA Workgroup has heard support for this idea. Please send any suggestions or opinions regarding this change to the contact information below.

SMAA mailbox at smaa@dhcs.ca.gov or the LEA mailbox at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov

4. **CDE/DHCS Needs Survey**

CDE created a survey and distributed to districts regarding the district's highest priority needs in the areas related to student health. The results continue to be reviewed, but

the most common needs have to do with Mental Health in schools. Districts reported they needed the most support in this area. The other interesting finding was districts reported the greatest roadblock to providing services is the difficulty with the billing systems in place through DHCS. LAUSD, CDE, DHCS, and THK are meeting as a small group to review how best to connect schools to support. Contact was made with the Mental Health Commission and efforts will be moving forward with support from State Superintendent Tom Torlakson's office.

5. Funding Opportunities

There are at least \$30 million in funds available for districts to use for school mental health services.

A new program has been approved by the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission to encourage schools and county mental health to work together. School districts can approach counties to apply for this money. Proposals can include how districts can be mental health providers, deliver services, etc. (see attached)

6. Report from Districts

LAUSD proposed a draft piece of legislation that requests there be fiscal and audit guidance for the LEA BOP. The legislative language states all stakeholders would have input. The goal is for rules to be clear in order to avoid issues coming up during audits. LAUSD welcomes feedback and will work in collaboration with the existing workgroups. The bill will hopefully be in print sometime in January.

7. Proposed Change to RMTS Notification

Please submit comments to DHCS regarding the proposed manual revision on a policy change for the notification and response timeline for RMTS moments. Existing policy requires a 5 student attendance day advanced notice prior to receiving a moment and a 5 student attendance day response period. The new policy would require **no advanced notification and a 2 day response period** for all moments. DHCS is requesting your input on how this proposed direction would impact your programs.

Please submit your comments to the SMAA mailbox at smaa@dhcs.ca.gov or the LEA mailbox at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov by close of business Friday, January 19, 2018.

Below are comments that districts shared with the group:

The premise seems to be that people will cheat if they are told they have a moment coming up. The consensus was, staff will continue to do what they do since their number of moments per year is low and inconsequential to their main activity. There seems to be just as much likelihood that no prior notification would mean that staff was just as likely to make up what they were doing at the time or there would be other pressures to reach the 85% threshold. Example given was recent New Jersey audit <https://oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region2/21501010.asp>

Schedules:

Districts report that many of their TSPs do not work a full schedule and either work four hour schedules or for example two days a week. This might mean a Monday and a Friday

If a part time worker is ill, this further complicates contacting them and the completion of a moment

Speech pathologists, psychologists are scheduled for direct service delivery and are not in regular contact with MAA staff

Staff may check their e-mail in the morning or after they see patients. They then leave the district and may not check their e-mail until the end of the second day they are in the district. If these dates are not sequential, they will miss the moment.

Travel

Many districts report that TSPs travel between school sites and are already hard to contact. Lessening the number of days makes this even more difficult.

At sites, staff does not always have permission to use computers. For example, aides do not have access to computers. It is not part of their job specs to use them

RMTS changes

Some districts reported that as part of a consortium, staff may receive very few moments in a quarter or even a year. As a result, staff need to be reminded what a moment means. Hunting down staff and getting them to respond is the task of the MAA coordinator. It is difficult enough one reports in tracking someone down in five days but making it two will make it nearly impossible.

One person may on the other hand receive two or three in one day and be confused about having to respond twice. Often they will respond once and think this is all they need to do. Letting staff know about responding to each moment in real time can be difficult when staff thinks they have already responded.

Staff

Staff in most cases provide services. They don't sit at computers. Many are assigned to multiple locations. Districts report:

5 RNs cover 21 schools

4 LVNs cover 10 sites and work 4 hour shifts

9 LVNs serve 47 school sites

12 nurses serve 47 sites

Above is just a sample

Computer Issues

This change is based upon the premise that all systems work seamlessly. This is not the case. New employees may report moments as spam and this blocks moments not only to their accounts but to all others TSPs

There are glitches with e-mail addresses that preclude receiving the notification in a timely manner

IT departments are distinct from MAA coordinators so when there is a problem the issue may go through administration then to IT. This leads to further delays

Districts have been struck by a virus or hacked. This shuts down the entire system and leads to delays

Need for statistics

We understand that PCG can run a report statewide on response rate by number of days. Can the Department look at this data. Districts we spoke to have a range of 32% to 46% to 80% respond within two days. Response is tied to size, rural or urban district.

California is unique in that it has regional rather than a statewide survey. This needs to be taken into account

Want to avoid DHCS saying it is just an adjustment issues. And everyone will be fine once staff adjusts to the new policy.

Next SMAA LEA Workgroup call

Thursday, January 25th at 9am

Call Number: 866-881-4501, no pin required