

SMAA LEA Workgroup Call Minutes
Thursday, February 15th at 9:30am

1. Change at DHCS

Jose Garcia has now replaced Michelle Kristoff, who recently retired. Jose worked in MAA at the county level. An invitation to participate in an upcoming call will be extended so that he may connect to the districts participating in the workgroup.

2. Deferral – Latest Developments

The deferral is addressed in the most recent budget. It references that 220 million be set aside to pay back CMS for all three deferral periods. The figure is the worst-case scenario of 90% and the funds would come out of Prop 98. This is concerning to the education coalition as prop 98 funds are specifically meant to support classroom instruction.

The issue of culpability is still under discussion and will be addressed in upcoming meetings with the Department of Finance and the Governor's office. DHCS has culpability in the deferral as they agreed to the settlement with CMS and DHCS. DHCS has also been asked to formally appeal, but at this point they are not taking steps to do so. This is an issue that should be put before the legislature. Funds to pay back CMS could instead come from the general fund, instead of prop 98, but further discussion is needed.

The LEA workgroup will provide a briefing book with background, and original letters to and from CMS and the department. If districts have any additional information they would be useful in negotiations, please send it to ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.org

District are encouraged to keep very clear records on payment made by the district and vendors to DHCS to hinder any double invoice payments in future.

3. Mental Health

- Webinar March 8th 10am-11:30am

THK will be hosting a Mental Health Webinar on March 8th at 10am to 11:30am.

Participating on the panel will be Gordon Jackson, head of pupil services at CDE. Dave Gordon from the county office of education, a mental health board member and a

school districts currently contracted with their county. RFP funds will soon be available.

This will be discussed in webinar and later addressed in an upcoming Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission meeting on March 22nd.

4. Data Use Agreement

The most recently updated DUA will soon be released. Discussion are underway with DHCS to affirm access to the data as well as the regulations required on the federal level. It is important to determine what is mandatory and what is optional. It should also be noted that the person signing the DUA at the district would be someone that could guarantee the all privacy requirements agreed to are being met. In cases of non-compliance the consequences could be very steep. This updated DUS is also important regarding the upcoming SPA allowing districts to bill for additional services. In the new agreement districts could use data for outreach to help families maintain eligibility for Medi-Cal. This is also important for students with IEP's. Districts

are the payer of last resort and when students fall off Medi-Cal the cost of services come out of the school's budget.

5. Legislation

- **Audits (See attached letter)**

DHCS does not want LEAs to know what is in their audits and believe the manual is enough preparation. The concern from districts is that the manual is not always clear or updated with the frequent changes taking place. Policy changes are often made, but not formally noted. Improvements could be made with the communication between Audit and Investigation and the Program staff. Also, a possible program guide could also be a solution. The recent bill from LAUSD was not sponsored and so could not move forward.

- **Prop 64**

LEAs are hoping to get some of the prop 64 funds however, DHCS does not support this idea beyond the LEAs participating in the stakeholder process. However, the bill states that 60% will be delegated for children. Education and prevention could be funded through this. Schools getting some of the money.

- **Mental Health – SB 1019 (attached) Grey Kramer**

SB 1019 is targeting funds for youth centric programs. The goal is to increase partnership with schools and local mental health programs extending into care and outreach in schools by up to 50%. There has not been enough application for triage bill from schools. Only about 15% are currently for youth. Triage grants provide counselors and crisis intervention with more personnel. Approximately 32-34 million is available for this purpose. This also ongoing funding and would significantly increase mental health programs in schools. Details will be shared at the upcoming meeting on March 22nd. Updates are available through the link below.

<http://mhsoac.ca.gov/triage-homepage>

- Office of School Based Health is still under discussion. CDE continues to have more input and is now discussing ways on how to staff the program. There is an increasing amount from the education community for this office.

Next Meeting – Mental Health Webinar

March 8th at 10am-11:30am

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

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