

**SMAA LEA Workgroup Call**  
**Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am**

1. Washington DC Conference

THK attended a national conference regarding school-based health with multiples states, CMS and department of education. Also attending were new DHCS staff Jose Garcia and Betty Lai. The conference included information on the State Plan Amendment (SPA) to allow for schools to cover eligible students on Medicaid similar to those who have IEPs and are on Medicaid. Massachusetts is the only state that has implemented a SPA and their mode includes the county distributing funds to schools. Many states are also concerned with changes to the notification requirements since filing a SPA allows CMS to open and ask for modifications to the existing plan.

2. Report on Budget Action on Deferral

The budget was concluded. The Governor has until July 1<sup>st</sup> to sign the budget. It is unclear what he will veto or if it will stand as sent to him. The S-MAA deferral was addressed in the budget. \$168 million was set aside to cover up to 75% loss. There is a meeting scheduled between DHCS and Department of Finance to decide how the payback process will be handled. CDE should also be involved to help determine the process. Districts are encouraged to verify backcasting and payback with LECs/LGAs on what was received up to date so that DHCS and the Department of Finance have accurate information on what is owed.

DHCS has requested a meeting with CMS on the deferral and have been waiting since October. There has been turnover at CMS in region IX and this has been given by DHCS as the reason for the delay.

3. Report on Office of School Based Health

A meeting is scheduled with CDE to discuss having an Office of School-Based Health set up within their department. Many education organizations along with CDE also support the inclusion of this office. DHCS is concerned with district participation, process and input from another state agency. Progress has been made.

4. 0/2 Notification Update

CMS believes that if districts have longer notification time they may cheat. They have been asked to review the number data to verify if it has changed between worker log methodology and RMTS in the current process. It could be that numbers haven't changed or may have even lowered since worker log. The SPA is still under review by CMS. There will be a meeting in October that will include, MAA and LEA BOP reps to discuss plans for the SPA.

5. Mental Health in Schools

Many bills this year dealt with changes to mental health programs that could impact schools. These include SB 1019 Beall, SB 1004 that deal with funds and their distribution through the Mental Health Services Act and AB 2022 Chu on notification to parents on availability of mental health services.

Cannabis Initiative funds- Prop 64 could be impacted by SB 275 (Portantino) that could skew funding towards treatment rather than intervention and prevention. The bill sets up standards for youth substance abuse treatment but ties their use to Prop 64 and any other state or local funds. Some education organizations oppose this bill.

## 6. Back to School programs

Free health education presentations are available through Teachers for Healthy Kids and can now be offered to students and/or parent groups. A variety of topics are covered include Medi-Cal 101, Asthma, Diabetes, Nutrition, etc. This project is sustainable throughout the school year and may be available to your district depending on your geographic region. The project was piloted last year at LAUSD with great success.

Multiple health plan partners offer info sessions to school nurses, health aides, student services and family resource staff. It is a short presentation on the services, contact info and resources the health plan has available so that district staff that offer support can more easily connect students. There is also a question and answer portion at the end. We found in districts where this is done it can be very helpful with unique situations school support staff come across. The presentations are not geared towards marketing but are to help identify the health plan resources that are the most helpful for your work; specifically, as the new school year approaches.

THK has been revamping its CHIPER tool to accommodate changes made at DHCS. This tool runs a district's tape match data through a tool that highlights which students have recently fallen off of Medi-Cal. Districts are then able to offer support in a variety of ways so that these students can reinstate their Medi-Cal membership without loss of coverage. THK hopes districts are able to utilize this tool to help support students access to health care in the upcoming school year. Attached is an example of the report generated by the tool.

Please contact Nena Garcia if you have questions or are interested in one of the program projects listed for your district.

[ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.org](mailto:ngarcia@teachersforhealthykids.org) or call 916-440-8811

Next meeting – July 26<sup>th</sup>