

SMAA LEA Workgroup Call Minutes

Thursday, June 27th at 9:30am

1. The revised PPL 19-011R is now available online.

- Web page: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/2019-PPLs.aspx>
- Document:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/ACLSS%20PPLs/2019/PPL19-011R.pdf>

2. Deferral Update

Statistical data from DHCS was sent out. The information does not include in total how much districts lost. The data instead only lists a portion of districts who got money beyond the 40%. The districts paid 60% and received 5% back. These numbers also only include districts that had claims of over \$50,000. DHCS offered a deal to districts that kept their claim between \$25,000 and \$50,000 allowing them to get back 75%. Many districts took that offered deal and their 25% loss is not reflected in the data.

DHCS will be asked to share data that includes the original amount of the invoice, the amount paid by DHCS, the amount of the backcasting claim, factor in the vendor worksheet and the net up or down numbers.

It is unclear what will happened to districts that owe more than the deferral amount. A settle up amount of \$368.4 million for Prop. 98 was allocated for districts and community colleges. This could potentially help with what is still owed.

3. Superintendent Thurmond has organized 13 teams to make recommendations to CDE. A priority recommendation from the Health and Safety team is for an office of school based health to be established within CDE. Thurmond requested background and program information on both SMAA and LEA BOP to be shared with him the first week of July.

4. SPA Updates

Vacancies -

The ability for LEAs to add a Vacant position may be included in the new SPA. It could potentially be coded as 17, with no cost attached to the moment. LECs/LGAs are concerned that balance could potentially be lost and ask for language to be included that would reinforce balance. DHCS is currently discussing language that is too restrictive by requiring specific intent to hire for vacant positions. Other states that include vacancies do not include this.

MOU with Health Plans -

The requirement for collaboration between school districts and managed care plans is still under discussion. The managed care side of DHCS has been informed of this portion of the SPA. The California Association of Health Plans will be updated on the SPA and the potential memorandum needed to be set in place at an upcoming meeting in August.

5. **Medi-Cal is Payer of 1st Resort** - District have reported in the past that parents received letters informing them that they may be billed for services their IEP student receives in school. This has caused an issue with parents and community advocates who urge families to not sign their Medi-Cal form allowing districts to receive reimbursement for IEP services provided for that student. It would be helpful if DHCS could provide written clarification that the original letter sent to parents is erroneous as Medi-Cal is the payer of 1st resort. Districts may ask DHCS if they could contact the billing system that sends this letter and block its distribution. Districts can contact DHCS directly (email below) about this issue being agendized at the next bi-monthly meeting.

LEA@DHCS.CA.GOV

6. Mental Health Funds for Schools

Fifty million dollars in funds have been added to the Budget for county mental health and LEAs to form partnerships for delivery of mental health services at school sites. Along with 35 million dollars for the Office of State- Health Planning and Development to support additional mental health practitioners. If districts have a contract with their county, funds could be used to pay interns a stipend and this could be a part of the expansion with the SPA. There is also a question with the SPA covering costs of interns directly since both social worker and marriage and family counselor intern costs can be claimed under the SPA. Also included in the budget is 1.7 million for suicide prevention

7. Legislation (See Attached)

8. **NEXT CALL - SMAA LEA Workgroup Call: Thursday, July 25th at 9:30am
Call Number: 866.881.4501- No Pin Required**