

Minutes:

SMAA LEA Workgroup Call: Thursday, December 12 at 9:30am

Call Number: 866.881.4501- No Pin Required

NEXT Call: Thursday January 16, 2020 at 9:30am

1. Update on State Plan Amendment

There was a SMAA workgroup meeting Hosted by DHCS on December 11, 2019. On the SPA, final markups have been sent to the Federal Government. The State Plan Amendment is on track to be approved within the next month or so and implemented on the 1st of July.

AB 75- legislation to improve federal claiming for school based health programs:

Currently, California ranks 43rd nationwide in Medi-Cal spending per student on school-based health and mental health services. AB 75 is a bill that allocates \$500,000 to find ways to receive additional Medi-Cal funding for school-based programs. Funds will be used to hire West Ed.; stakeholders will be brought in to provide input to streamline how the State can receive more federal funds. The SB 75 Committee is led by CDE. They are expected to report back to the state in October of 2020 with a list of changes that need to be made. Information on the workgroup is attached.

2. Proposed Federal Changes to MAA and LEA BOP

The Federal Government has released a new list of Proposed Regulations that focus on the fiscal accountability of programs that are financed through Inter-Governmental Transfers or Certified Public Expenditures. These are programs that provide a service and then bill the federal government for reimbursement using matching funds. The new regulations would have a negative Impact on schools, hospitals and nursing homes.

The Proposed Regulations can be accessed here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/11/18/2019-24763/medicaid-program-medicaid-fiscal-accountability-regulation>

[The comment period is now open. Comments are due January 17th and can be made by following directions in the link above.](#)

3. DHCS Update

The draft PPL on TSP replacement and vacancies for the RMTS has been published. It can be accessed below, or it is attached:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/ACLSS%20PPLs/2019/PPL-19-030.pdf>

4. Health Plans and IEP Services

Claudia Brown reported that Medi-Cal plan providers were sending families to their schools an IEP, rather than allow providers to bill them for these services. This was causing frustration and confusion for parents in Orange. They were being shunted between the service provider and the LEA. The health plan withdrew its memo to their providers resolving the issue.

5. Mental Health Funding

Cal AIM:

A new waiver is being proposed by the State to the Federal Government to further implement whole-person care. This extensive plan will change how Medi-Cal is delivered to the most vulnerable populations including children with special needs,

formerly incarcerated adults, the mentally ill and homeless populations. One of the biggest changes will be around mental health funding simplification that could impact county mental health funds. One proposal is to delete the requirement for a diagnosis before a child could receive Medi-Cal funded services. Funds are currently distributed through Certified Public Expenditures but under the proposed changes could be distributed through Inner Governmental Transfers, making reimbursement easier.

The 180-page plan proposal can be found at:

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/calaim>

Mental Health Student Services Act:

Earlier this year, Governor Newsom signed the Mental Health Student Services Act. The MHSOAC will award grants totaling \$50 million dollars over a four-year grant cycle, to county behavioral health departments to fund partnerships between school districts and county mental health agencies. More information can be found below:

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is seeking applications in response to the Mental Health Student Services Act (MHSSA) to incentivize partnerships between behavioral health departments and education agencies for the purpose of increasing access to mental health services in locations that are easily accessible to students and their families.

Click the link below to be taken to the MHSOAC website where you can view and download the Request for Application for the MHSSA grant:

[Request for Application for MHSSA Grant](#)

6. Future Webinars

Our next webinar will be on the topic: Gaining Parental Consent. Harvard law graduate, Rebecca Gudeman will share what are the best practices to achieve parental consent that is consistent with HIPPA/FERPA. This is an important topic as we expand the SPA to include all those on Medi-Cal not just those with IEPs. Please feel free to send us any questions you may want answered during the webinar, or any suggestions on what should be addressed during the webinar. It will take place after the first of the year.