

Local Education Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
June 1, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Location: Natomas Unified School District (USD)

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization/Title
1. Geri Baucom	DHCS, Safety Net Financing Division (SNFD)
2. Rick Record	DHCS, Safety Net Financing Division (SNFD)
3. Rob Williams	DHCS, Safety Net Financing Division (SNFD)
4. Evie Correa	DHCS, Audits and Investigations Financial Audits Branch (A&I FAB)
5. Alan Eng	DHCS, A&I FAB
6. Martin Alvarez	DHCS, A&I FAB
7. Debbie Lee	DHCS, A&I FAB
8. Angela Furnari	DHCS, A&I Medical Review Branch (MRB)
9. Matthew Hill	CDE, Special Education
10. Steve Perez	CDE, Special Education
11. Anysia Drumheller	Butte County Office of Education (COE)
12. Michelle Cowart	Contra Costa COE
13. Lisa Chaney	Fresno COE
14. Roni Tunick	Los Angeles COE
15. Margie Bobe	Los Angeles USD
16. Laura Baynham	Mendocino COE
17. Shelton Yip	Napa County SELPA
18. Tracy Cole	Natomas USD
19. Jeremy Ford	Oakland USD
20. Cathy Bennett	Sacramento City USD
21. Marlene Burruel	San Joaquin COE
22. Sam Neustedt	Solano County SELPA
23. Greg Englar	Sonoma COE
24. Janice Holden	Stanislaus COE
25. Kevin Harris	Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Handouts

Each participant was e-mailed an electronic copy of the Workgroup Meeting Agenda and April 2011 Meeting Minutes.

Purpose

The meeting was convened by DHCS. The purpose of the Workgroup is to improve the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Program. The emphasis of the meeting is to strategize various goals and activities aimed at enhancing the Medi-Cal services provided on school sites and access by students to these services, while increasing federal reimbursement to LEAs for the cost of providing these services.

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Review of Meeting Minutes and Introductions

The Workgroup had no changes to the April meeting minutes. Rick Record was introduced as the new LEA Billing Option Program Supervisor, and is also in charge of the Administrative Support Unit.

California Department of Education (CDE) Update – AB 3632 Discussion

- Steve Perez noted he spoke with Legislative Affairs, but that he wasn't at liberty to discuss CDE's strategy.
- Laura Baynham passed out copies of the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) statement and noted that schools might be forced to take on mental health services without a proper reimbursement methodology.
- Sheldon Yip and Sam Neustedt both discussed the litigation history of the bill, and noted it is unclear what will happen in July relative to a potential repeal, a Supreme Court hearing and the Brown budget proposal. Counties are interested in finding ways to attract more Medi-Cal funding for mental health services that may be leveraged to the schools.

DHCS SNFD Update

Staffing Updates

- Two FTEs will eventually work in Policy. A Research Analyst II position has been filled under Rick in Administrative Support to help with the database work. Applications are being reviewed for Rob's old position.

DHCS Fees

- DHCS is hoping to automate the 2.5 percent withhold mechanism in the future, similar to what is being developed for the 1 percent A&I withhold.
- The 1 percent A&I withhold is expected to be implemented on August 22nd.

HP Issues, EPCs and /or Problem Statements

- RAD Code 9921 Update:
 - Business rules to implement an updated utilization control for IEP/IFSP annual assessments were forwarded to FI-COD after the last Workgroup meeting.
- CAMMIS Table 215 Update: 92551/92552
 - No update from HP yet to limit payment to procedure codes 92551 and 92552 with appropriate modifiers.
- Two Year Claiming Limit- HP Utilization Control and SPA 05-010
 - The LEA Program has exceeded CMS' two-quarter requirement for SPA compliance.
 - DHCS will move ahead with 05-010 SPA submission to CMS.

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- FMAP American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)/Rate Rebasing Changes:
 - DHCS will post new rebased rate tables on the website.
 - The Workgroup suggested including notations that clearly remind LEAs not to implement changes to their “charges” in their systems until HP implements the “fix”, to avoid potential reimbursement “cutbacks” from charges lower than actual reimbursement.
 - The LEA website document will include rate impact from both rate rebasing, as well as ARRA impact.
 - DHCS will review the layout with Workgroup member representatives to ensure report usefulness. Report will note all procedure code/modifier combinations for current rate (FY 2009/10), rebased rate for FY 2010/11, and all three FMAP changes from January-March 2011, April-June 2011, and a rates effective July 1, 2011 (at 50 percent FMAP).
 - The Workgroup members asked if the new “back to back” annual assessment changes in process would require a future EPC, given the likelihood that ARRA/rebasing system changes will occur first. An EPC will need to be run in the future to pay those previously denied annual assessment claims.

LEA Annual Report

- A new Provider Participation Agreement (PPA) and Annual Report with all withhold language has been drafted by DHCS. It must be sent to CDE for review for Education Code compliance.
- DHCS will be meeting with CDE to discuss implementation changes, which should streamline the process.
- The Workgroup requested that PPA instructions be clearly identified on the LEA Program website.
- A&I noted that they are developing a “best practices” booklet that will be posted on their new A&I/LEA website, and that the PPA instructions could be added to the existing site, as well.

SACS Code 5640

- DHCS issued a letter to Agnes Chan at CDE regarding LEA funds previously thought to be federal AND restricted. DHCS noted in the letter that they do NOT consider LEA Program reimbursement to be “restricted federal funds”.
- Agnes Chan responded that CDE will not change the SACS coding; SNFD will change their LEA guidance from Medi-Cal’s perspective, as those types of funds should NOT be excluded from the CRCS report. Instructions on the CRCS will be clarified when appropriate.
- SNFD will move towards instituting the Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) format for the LEA Program. The PPL will be the official policy notice/instructions to the LEAs. This process will be consistent with the SMAA, CMAA, and TCM Programs.

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DHCS Audits and Investigations (A&I) Financial Audits Branch (FAB)

Staffing and Program Update

- On April 20, 2011, the Governor's Office approved a freeze exemption for A&I positions. Martin Alvarez is a new Manager I, joining Alan Eng in the LEA Program. A total of 14 positions will ultimately be staffed.
- Starting July 1, 2011, new internal account codes will be set up for each program to account for expenditures. A&I expects they will NOT reach the \$650,000 cap in the first year.
- A&I's new LEA Program website should be running within approximately one week. It will include CRCS updates, best practices links, and links to the existing SNFD LEA Program website.

1997 Federal Technical Assistance Guide issues

- Pay and Chase: A&I noted they will be looking into this, and will probably take exception to current practices. They reminded LEAs of their obligation to pursue third party liability.
- Contracting with practitioners/requirement to staff same practitioner type: A&I will work with SNFD to clarify and research this issue.

LEA Industry Training

- A&I completed both trainings in Downey and San Diego last week. The upcoming Sacramento training and webinar is scheduled this Friday.
 - SNFD will post the new FY 2010/11 CRCS form and modified instructions sometime this summer (July/August).

A&I Medical Review Branch (MRB) Representation

- Angela Furnari attended this Workgroup meeting. Angela or another MRB representative is expected to attend future meetings.

Workgroup Subcommittee Reports

Communications Subcommittee

- No updates.

Training Subcommittee

- Gave feedback to A&I on their CRCS presentation slides for the current training sessions and reviewed the training invitation.

Services Subcommittee

- Received a new services matrix from SNFD/NCI summarizing the results of their selected state interviews.
- The Subcommittee will be reviewing those results with Navigant and SNFD on an upcoming phone conference.

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- Reminded the group about “new” assessment consideration (i.e., autism)

Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 3, 2011 10:30am – 3:00pm at Natomas USD