



**Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP)
Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2024**

Meeting Materials

- » Meeting materials were distributed to participants via e-mail and are available on the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) [webpage](#).
- » Total number of attendees: 273

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

- » October 2023 meeting minutes are available [online](#).
- » Comments on the January 2024 Stakeholder meeting minutes should be sent via e-mail to the LEA Inbox at LEA@DHCS.ca.gov.
 - If no feedback is received, the meeting minutes will be considered final.
 - If feedback that substantively changes the minutes is received, the modified minutes will be sent via e-blast and posted online.

California Department of Education (CDE) Updates

- » CDE provided an update on two grants being administered:
 - The Lead LEA BOP Specialist, which was awarded to Santa Clara County Office of Education (COE), is a five-year grant that aims to provide resources and in-depth technical assistance to selected LEAs. Santa Clara COE is currently assisting and supporting ten LEAs as part of Cohort 1; new LEAs will be selected to participate as of July 1, 2024.
 - The School Health Demonstration Project provides LEA pilot participants with assistance and support to build the capacity for long-term sustainability by leveraging multiple revenue sources, including federal reimbursement. Santa Clara COE was selected by CDE to provide technical assistance to LEAs for two years under this grant.

- » Information on both of these grants, including a list of the LEA pilot participants in the School Health Demonstration Project, can be found on the CDE's [Office of School-Based Health](#) website.
- » CDE reviewed the California Education Code guidance related to reinvestment of funds, found in [Title 5, Section 8804\(g\)](#). CDE explained that it is up to each LEA to work with their fiscal group to determine the best use of funds to reinvest in health services.
- » If LEAs have questions about the CDE citation, please e-mail Dr. Karrie Sequeira at Ksequeira@cde.ca.gov.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Aware

- » Dr. Mikah Owen provided an update on the ACEs Aware Initiative, a statewide initiative that offers Medi-Cal providers with training, screening tools, clinical protocols, and payment for screening for ACEs.
- » ACEs Aware offers a free, two-hour online training that educates clinicians and their teams on how to provide trauma-informed care, screen for ACEs and assess the risk of toxic stress and use clinical protocols to develop a treatment plan to prevent and mitigate toxic stress. This training is required for LEA BOP providers that plan to bill for ACEs screening services.
- » Program resources are available at www.ACEsAware.org.
- » Questions after today's meeting can be sent to Questions@acesaware.org.

Office of Strategic Partnerships: Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiatives (CYBHI) Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule Updates

- » Kenna Cook and Kevin Gerard from the Office of Strategic Partnerships (OSP) at DHCS provided an update on the Statewide Multi-Payer Fee Schedule. The CYBHI fee schedule will only be used to reimburse behavioral health services provided to students who are not receiving services pursuant to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Services must be medically necessary to be billed under the fee schedule but will not require prior authorization.
- » OSP reported that a finalized fee schedule, including billing codes, eligible practitioners, and rates, has been published on the DHCS website. In addition, a Third-Party Administrator (TPA), Carelon Behavioral Health, has been selected to

assist DHCS with claims processing, managing the provider network, and providing onboarding and technical assistance support to providers and payers.

- » OSP has also released a [draft guidance document](#) with more information on the fee schedule. Meeting attendees were invited to review the document and provide feedback until March 2024.
- » DHCS has [selected the Cohort 1 participants](#) that will now take part in a comprehensive onboarding process to prepare for participation in the fee schedule. At this point, billing through the fee schedule is not expected to start until after April 1, 2024. During the meeting, OSP reviewed the operational requirements and provided an overview of the process that they utilized to select the Cohort 1 members.
- » DHCS noted that they are currently working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to gain federal approval for a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to enable reimbursement of PPS credentialed providers under the fee schedule.
- » Please reach out to DHCS.SBS@dhcs.ca.gov with any questions.

Audits and Investigations (A&I) Updates

- » DHCS provided information on the reorganization of the A&I Division into four separate divisions. The division supporting LEA BOP is the Financial Review Outpatient and Behavioral Health Division, led by Stacy Fox. A&I reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the various groups related to the completion, submission, and auditing of the Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS).
- » A&I reviewed the audit escalation process and explained that this is a collaborative effort to work with the providers to resolve issues. LEAs have the option to file appeals with the Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals if a resolution cannot be reached through less formal channels. Contact information was provided in the slides to resolve audit issues and presented in order of priority to move the issue up the chain, when necessary.
- » Assembly Bill (AB) 483 was discussed, including resource allocations provided to A&I to meet the requirements of the bill. AB 483, now law, requires A&I to issue interim settlements or final settlements within 12 months of the March 1 CRCS

filing date for CRCS reports. When interim settlements are issued, DHCS must issue final settlements within 18 months of the submission date for fiscal years 2022-23 (due March 1, 2024) and forward.

- » Please reach out to LEAAuditQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov with any questions.

DHCS Status Update Summary (SUS) Highlights

- » DHCS highlighted the items of the SUS, provided as an attachment to all registered participants. The complete SUS can be found on the [LEA BOP website](#).

Data Use Agreements (DUAs)

- » DHCS provided a summary of two DUAs.
 - DUA #2 is an optional DUA that allows sharing files between LEA BOP and SMAA personnel at the same LEA for a limited period (currently, this DUA is set to expire in November 2024). This may be useful to LEAs as they conduct outreach for redetermination of Medi-Cal eligibility post-Public Health Emergency. LEAs interested in opting in should submit the DUA by March 1, 2024, to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.
 - DUA #3 is a new data match output file with a new MOVEit folder that is only for renewal, not redetermination purposes. The new data match output file will have a new column titled "Renewal Date" containing information to identify when the member will be due for renewal. LEAs interested in opting in should submit the DUA by March 1, 2024, to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.

Mental Health Coordination Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) 20-051

- » DHCS reminded LEAs that DHCS encourages the coordination of mental health-related services with Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs), COEs, County Mental Health Plans (MHPs), and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

Home-to-School Transportation Reimbursement Program (HTSTR)

- » At the October Quarterly Stakeholder meeting, guest speakers from CDE presented on the HTSTR Program, which is funded by the State General Fund.

DHCS would like to provide an update that LEAs can bill for transportation under both the LEA BOP and CDE HTSTR Program since the home-to-school-transportation is funded through the State General Fund and does not need to be removed from the CRCS.

- » For more information about HTSTR, please see the October Meeting Minutes found [here](#).

Update on LEA BOP Billing by Colleges

- » DHCS explained that colleges were being assigned the incorrect provider type when their NPI is associated with multiple Medi-Cal provider types. This issue led to historical claim denials due to incorrect adjudication.
- » DHCS reported that they initiated a System Development Notice (SDN) to correct the problem, which was implemented in late-December 2023. DHCS is currently in a testing phase and will send out an e-blast when we have confirmed that the billing issues have been resolved. Once resolved, colleges will be encouraged to resume or begin participating in LEA BOP.

Assembly Bill (AB) 483

- » This bill, signed by the Governor on October 8, 2023, and was effective on January 1, 2024. AB 483 requires DHCS to make several changes related to auditing LEAs. These changes include offering targeted technical assistance to LEAs that have a 25 percent or greater audit impact, moving up the cost settlement timeline, distributing an updated Program Guide by July 1, 2024, and publishing a statewide summary of financial findings.
- » To fund these activities, DHCS has authority via AB 483 to collect administrative fees up to 5% through a withhold on LEA BOP interim claims. The current withholds (one percent and two percent) will be rolled into one withhold of five percent, effective January 1, 2024 (will be implemented retroactive to January 1).
- » DHCS noted that they began identifying LEAs with a 25 percent or greater difference between their reported and audited settlement amounts and offering technical assistance more than six months ago and is continuing to offer technical assistance to LEAs with these large differences between reported amounts and final settlement.

- » As noted by A&I above, for CRCS reports SFYs 2022-23 and forward, AB 483 requires DHCS to provide an interim settlement within 12 months of the March 1 CRCS due date in cases where a final audit settlement is not made within 12 months.
- » In cases where an interim settlement is made, DHCS must complete the audit within 18 months of the submission date.

Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS)

- » CRCS submissions for SFY 2022-23 are due Friday, March 1, 2024. An acceptance e-mail from A&I confirms that your CRCS has been filed, accepted as complete, and is in review with DHCS.
- » DHCS reminded that all unfiled CRCS reports for SFYs 2015-2016 through 2021-2022 are overdue and must be filed immediately. DHCS also noted that rejected CRCS submissions are required to be corrected and resubmitted by LEAs in a timely manner.
- » If an LEA is placed on a 100 percent withhold for not submitting its CRCS, a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) will be issued, which could result in the LEA being suspended from the Random Moment Time Survey (RMTS) participation if the CRCS is not submitted within the timeline indicated in the CAP. Suspension from RMTS, resulting in failure to participate in RTMS, could result in loss of reimbursement for impacted quarters and in termination from LEA BOP with a requirement to repay all uncertified interim payments received by the LEA for the reporting period.
- » The LEA BOP Operations Unit started outreach in December 2022 to LEAs to assist with program enrollment, technical assistance, and submission of unfiled CRCS reports and is still actively assisting those remaining LEAs that still have CRCS reports to file.
- » Please contact LEA@dhcs.ca.gov for any further questions.

2023-24 Annual Report

- » Annual Report submissions were due in November 2023. DHCS will begin targeted outreach in March 2024 for LEAs that have not yet submitted this required report.

- » Annual Reports can be submitted electronically to LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.ca.gov.

Technical Assistance

- » DHCS reminded LEAs that information about the CRCS, including forms, instructions, and due dates is available [online](#).
- » LEAs that do not receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for a SFY must submit a Certification of Zero Reimbursement which is only available by e-mailing the LEA inbox at LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.
- » LEAs in need of Technical Assistance can fill out the [Technical Assistance Form](#) available on the LEA BOP website and submit it to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.

Upcoming Best Practices Sessions

- » LEA BOP will implement breakout rooms after the [Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting](#) morning session, beginning in April 2024.
- » Breakout rooms will include LEA guest speaker and DHCS staff for policy related questions.
- » Please e-mail any topics/practices that you would like to discuss in a networking environment to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.

General Reminders

- » LEAs needing to communicate an address change should submit the first two pages of the Annual Report (Medi-Cal Provider Enrollment Information Sheet) to: LEA.AnnualReport@dhcs.ca.gov.
- » When e-mailing information that may contain Protected Health Information (PHI), send the message securely by using the "encrypt" feature on Microsoft Outlook or by adding the word "[SECURE]" in brackets in the e-mail subject line.
- » Subscribe to the LEA BOP listserv to receive important information at: <http://apps.dhcs.ca.gov/listssubscribe/default.aspx?list=DHCSLEA>.
- » LEA BOP has terminated the LEA.CRCS.QUESTIONS@dhcs.ca.gov inbox.
- » Please direct all CRCS questions to LEA@dhcs.ca.gov.
- » If you have general questions regarding your audit report or previously issued audit reports, please email LEAAuditQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov.

Afternoon Training Session: CRCS Check-In Meeting #2

- » An afternoon training session was conducted on the SFY 2022-23 CRCS, due March 1, 2024. This training was designed as a check-in meeting and provider billing forum to provide responses to recent provider questions. Topics discussed included:
 - CRCS Preparation, Submission and Acceptance Process
 - Specialized Medical Transportation Services
 - Contractor Costs
- » All information necessary to complete the CRCS is posted on the [SFY 2022-23 CRCS Landing Page](#).
- » All LEAs must submit the CRCS package by March 1, 2024, to LEA.CRCS.Submission@dhcs.ca.gov.
- » Please [register](#) for the April Quarterly Stakeholder meeting.

Next LEA BOP Stakeholder Meeting:

LEA BOP Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting
April 24, 2024, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT (Webinar via WebEx)

Future agenda items or training requests may
be directed to the LEA@dhcs.ca.gov inbox.