

**Local Educational Agency
Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP)
Advisory Workgroup (AWG) Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023**

Location

- » Due to the Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 which proclaimed a State of Emergency because of COVID-19, the January 2023 Advisory Workgroup meeting was hosted via WebEx. The online meeting included a morning session focused on the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) status updates, and the afternoon session consisted of a training on how to complete the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021-22 Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS).

Meeting Materials

- » DHCS distributed meeting materials to participants via e-blast and on the [DHCS Advisory Workgroup website](#).

Prior AWG Meeting Minutes

- » DHCS did not receive comments or edits to the October AWG Meeting minutes. Those meeting minutes are final.

California Department of Education (CDE) Update

- » There was no CDE representative at the meeting. No update.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Presentation

- » Guest speakers from UCLA-UCSF ACEs Aware Family Resilience Network (UCAAN) presented on the ACEs Aware Initiative, including sharing a [video on the importance of the Initiative and its impact on participants](#).
- » ACEs Screenings are a reimbursable activity through LEA BOP. Procedure codes are in the [Psychology/Counseling section](#) of the LEA BOP Provider Manual.
- » LEA practitioners who intend to bill for ACEs Screenings must complete a two-hour training and attest to completing this requirement. More information, including a link to the required training, is located on the [ACEs Aware website](#).

DHCS Audits & Investigation (A&I) Update

- » The A&I Cost Report and Tracking Section (CRTS) provided an overview of common audit submission findings for LEAs, highlighting common reasons for CRCS rejection.
- » If LEAs are not able to meet the submission deadline, LEAs are required to submit an extension request to LEA.CRCS.Submission@dhcs.ca.gov with a justification for an extension.
 - LEAs must include the new CRCS [Certification and Signature Document](#) with the SFY 2018-19 CRCS submission package. Detailed information on submission package requirements, including a DHCS update on the requirement to include bridging documentation and production logs, can be found in the [email that was sent to the LEA listserv](#) on January 27, 2023.
- » A&I is currently completing their review of SFYs 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 amended CRCS submissions.
 - A&I Audits will attempt to complete cost settlement for all three SFYs at once, when feasible. Final settlement for these three SFYs is expected to begin in July 2023.
- » LEAs may now opt-in to receive electronic audit reports. The deadline to opt-in was extended to January 31, 2023. Information on opting-in was shared during the SFY 2018-19 CRCS training on January 12, 2023. The training slides are now available through the LEA BOP Website at [SFY 2018-19 CRCS Check-In Training](#).

LGFD Updates

- » Interim Reimbursement Updates
 - Local Governmental Financing Division (LGFD) discussed the temporary increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAPs) during the public health emergency (PHE). During the PHE, California's FMAP received a 6.2% increase, resulting in a federal payment of 56.2% for each LEA BOP paid claim.
 - Effective April 1, 2023, California's FMAP will be reduced to 55%, followed by further reductions to 52.5%, on July 1, 2023, and to 51.5% on October 1, 2023. The FMAP will then return to the pre-PHE 50% rate on January 1, 2024. DHCS will automatically account for the FMAP reductions in the claims process for system providers.
- » Termination of the PHE
 - LGFD updated participants that the national PHE will expire on May 11, 2023.
 - LGFD reminded participants about the [DHCS health care coverage ambassador](#) campaign, which aims to ensure that Medi-Cal beneficiaries provide their current contact information to DHCS to receive re-enrollment materials in a timely manner. DHCS is working on a process to allow LEAs to opt-in to receive additional eligibility information that will aid in outreach efforts related to re-

enrollment. However, the opt-in activity is only applicable for LEAs that participate in both LEA BOP and SMAA. To participate, LEAs will need to complete an amended Data Use Agreement (DUA) and a Business Associate Addendum (BAA). DHCS will update LEAs via the [LEA BOP listserv](#) when these amended documents are available.

- » Telehealth Expansion after the PHE
 - LGFD is currently reviewing options to add asynchronous and support audio-only telehealth modalities as reimbursable services after the PHE terminates in May 2023.
 - During the meeting, LGFD asked participants to comment on how LEAs are currently using these modalities and whether expanding telehealth to include these modalities permanently post-PHE would be helpful. DHCS welcomes additional feedback on this topic through the [LEA Inbox](#).
- » Statewide School-Linked Behavioral Health Fee Schedule
 - LGFD provided an overview of the statewide school-linked behavioral health fee schedule, which is mandated in [Welfare and Institutions Code § 5961.4](#).
 - The fee schedule will be effective on January 1, 2024.
 - DHCS will provide information to LEA BOP stakeholders as the fee schedule is finalized.
- » DHCS updated stakeholders that they are working to further clarify the Health Education/Anticipatory Guidance service definition and will provide updated guidance via the LEA BOP Provider Manual.
- » LEA BOP Billing Reminders
 - LGFD reminded participants that COVID-19 counseling is now billable to the LEA BOP using procedure code 99401 and the CR modifier. Currently, reimbursement is limited to one unit of service.
 - Effective January 1, 2023, the scope of services for credentialed school counselors has been amended to include individual and group counseling services. Details will be published shortly in the Psychology/Counseling section of the LEA BOP [Provider Manual](#).
- » Alternative Format
 - LGFD informed participants about an upcoming Policy and Procedure Letter (PPL) regarding alternative format compliance. LECs, LGAs and LEAs must develop a plan to meet alternative format requirements, set forth in [PPL 21-017R](#), by August 1, 2023. The forthcoming PPL will provide additional information on this requirement.
- » Student Behavioral Health Incentive Program (SBHIP)
 - DHCS provided an overview of [SBHIP](#), including its accomplishments to date and timelines. LEAs were encouraged to send questions about SBHIP to the SBHIP mailbox at sbhip@guidehouse.com.

- » Mental Health Coordination
 - LGFD reminded participants that [PPL #20-051](#) is posted on the [LEA BOP website](#). The PPL addresses LEA coordination of mental health services with Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPAs), County Offices of Education (COEs), County Mental Health Plans (MHPs), and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).
- » Care Coordination
 - LEAs were informed that they may contract with managed care plans (MCPs) to render health care services that are separate and distinct from LEA BOP services, following mutually agreeable terms and no additional costs for the State or duplication of services.
 - LEAs willing to discuss successes and/or barriers in coordinating care or contracting with MCPs were encouraged to contact LEA@dhcs.ca.gov. DHCS will issue additional guidance on working with MCPs in the upcoming year.
- » Rate Rebasing
 - DHCS will begin the next rate rebasing process for rates effective in SFY 2024-25 using the SFY 2021-22 CRCS submissions. CRCS Worksheet B includes reporting of quarterly hours worked, as well as quarterly salary and benefit costs for qualified practitioners, which will be used in rate rebasing.
 - **DHCS Post-Meeting Update:** After the January 25, 2023 AWG meeting, [DHCS issued guidance](#) to LEAs that quarterly "Total Hours Worked" will no longer be required on the SFY 2021-22 CRCS.
- » 2023 AWG Meeting Schedule
 - Effective immediately, AWG meetings are quarterly instead of every other month. The next AWG meeting is on April 26, 2023.
 - Meeting information is posted on the LEA BOP website and sent to stakeholders via e-blast. Stakeholders may subscribe to e-blasts using the following link on the DHCS website: [List Subscribe](#).
- » General Reminders
 - LEAs with an address change: 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 adding the word "[**SECURE**]" in the e-mail subject line.
 - Subscribe to LEA BOP e-blasts to receive important information (meeting notifications, policy updates, trainings, etc.), by following this link to our website: [List Subscribe](#).

**Afternoon Webinar – Cost Reimbursement Comparison Schedule State Fiscal Year
2021-22 Training**

- » The afternoon session consisted of a training on how to complete the SFY 2021-22 CRCS, which is due March 1, 2023.
- » **DHCS Post-Meeting Update:** SFY 2021-22 CRCS training materials were [sent to LEA listserv members on January 30, 2023](#) and are [available on the LEA BOP website](#).

**The next Stakeholder Meeting is on
Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
(Webinar via WebEx)**