

**Local Educational Consortium (LEC) Committee
Yolo County Office of Education
Davis Room
1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite 100
Woodland, CA 95776-6127**

**Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2008
Final: February 7, 2008
Gathering 9:30 a.m. Meeting 10:00a.m.-2:15p.m.**

LEC Coordinator/Representative Attendees:

Greg Englar, Sonoma County Office of Education– Region 1
Eileen Dolan, Glenn County Office of Education-Region 2
Debbie Geer, Glenn County Office of Education- Region 2
Marjorie Rollins, Sutter County Superintendent of Schools, **Co-Chair**- Region 3
Jeff Holland, Superintendant-Sutter County Superintendent of Schools Region 3
Michelle Cowart, Contra Costa County Office of Education- Region 4
Brenda Higdon, Contra Costa County Office of Education-Region 4
Monica Morgan, Santa Cruz County Office of Education- Region 5
Janice Holden, Stanislaus County Office of Education- Region 6
Sue Hamblin, Stanislaus County Office of Education- Region 6
Susan Ellyson, Madera County Office of Education- Region 7
Ken Gragg, Kern County Superintendent of Schools- Region 8
Margaret Roux, Kern County Superintendent of Schools- Region 8
Annette Jewell, Orange County Department of Education- Region 9
Christine Ridley, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools- Region 10
Cathy Bray, Los Angeles County Office of Education, **Co-Chair**- Region 11
Roger Chang, Los Angeles County Office of Education- Region 11

Other Attendees:

Anysia Drumheller, Butte County Office of Education
Cathy Bennett – Sacramento City Unified School District

Absent:

Barbara Colombo, Los Angeles County Office of Education- Region 11
Janice DiCroce, LGA Co-Chair
Lynda Lindsay, LGA Co-Chair

1.0 Introductions

Each individual stated his/her name and agency affiliation.

2.0 Additions to the Agenda

1. There were two additions made to the agenda
 - o 13.0 Code 4 –discussion
 - o 14.0 Host Contract

3.0 Approval of the minutes

1. December minutes were not approved. Corrections and revisions were received. Minutes will be revised and reviewed for approval at the February 2008.

4.0 DHCS and Co-Chair Report – LEC Co-Chairs

1. On Monday, January 7, 2008 Elizabeth Touhey, Bob Baxtor, Cathy Bray and Marjorie Rollins held a conference call to discuss expiring contracts and the possible close down of the MAA program. All new contracts and extensions to contracts will be honored and sent out.
2. An email from Elizabeth Touhey to Lonnie King on January 9, 2008 regarding the MAA Contracts for 2008-2009 was discussed. Lonnie King is going forward with the new contracts and extensions per the letters of intent that were received at DHCS.

5.0 Close Down of the Program – Cathy

5.1 Invoices

1. LEA invoices will be processed and paid through the 07-08 school year as long as they are submitted within the prescribed time frames. LEC invoices will also continue to be paid until work is completed. Susan Ruiz from CMS agrees with Elizabeth Touhey that the integrity of claims needs to be overseen and that direct charges for these services will be honored.
2. The LEC Committee will have further discussions with DHCS in February regarding train the trainers.
3. It was suggested that the LEC advisory committee continue to meet during the 2008-2009 school year. There are many decisions and considerations that will still need to be made if the MAA program will be closing.

5.2 Provider Manuals

No provider manual changes will take place at this time.

5.3 Site Visits

1. All site reviews scheduled by DHCS will proceed. However, no additional site visits have been scheduled at this time. Districts should continue to follow the Manual Guidelines.

5.4 Training

All trainings for 2008-2009 have been cancelled at this time.

6.0 CCSEA and Legislative Updates – Conference call with Bob Canavan-CCSEA lobbyist in Washington DC and Mike Ricketts –Legislative Director for CCESEA

1. Mr. Canavan provided the following summary and update:
 - At the end of 2007 Congress passed a 6 month moratorium that President Bush signed into legislation on December 29, 2008. On December 28, 2007 CMS published rule 2287-F. Mr. Canavan emphasized that Congress has been much more aware of this issue over the last several months. 2287 was published while Congress was out of session. Mr. Canavan encourages people to work with their Congressional representatives to vote on legislation for extending the moratorium when Congress returns to session.
 - Mr. Ricketts mentioned that during this moratorium we need to keep this issue alive and not give up on the program being extended.
 - Jeff Holland inquired on the status of Congressman Boozman's, (AK) bill that would extend the moratorium of the program by three years. The committee was told that there are several bills supported by Democrats and Republicans to make this moratorium permanent. If a bill was introduced in 2007 it remains active. There is bi-partisan support and this is a huge issue nationally, especially here in California due to the proposed budget cuts by the Governor.
 - There are two committees with jurisdiction over the program, Energy Commerce Committee and Ways and Means Committee. Representatives Pete Stark, Mike Thompson and Wally Herger all sit on the Ways and Means Committee. Many of the key representatives on these committees are from California; thus it is imperative that we contact them for their support.
 - A LEC member inquired on how we went from a 3 year moratorium to 6 months moratorium. Bob Canavan stated that when Congress was negotiating the passage of the SCHIP Bill they felt that this was a compromise that could be made and that it would be enough to get any decision being made pushed to a new administration in January 2009. It was a surprise when CMS published the ruling. The President is moving forward and seems determined to see the closing of the program.

- The group was advised by Mr. Canavan that when contacting their legislators, it is important to emphasize the services being provided by this program and the need for those services to continue to be provided to children. He continued by adding that we must remind our legislators that IDEA funding is not the same as MAA funding. These are two separate issues but often get misinterpreted. This fight is not about back door funding of IDEA.
- It will be important that congress understands that CMS did not allow the moratorium to be put in place before they acted and that the need is still there for the services to be provided.
- Mr. Ricketts spoke to advocacy and support. Getting together letters with key Superintendants in order to give California delegates a heightened awareness for these services. He advised the committee that MAA is at the top of the list and that he will be working with California and other national coalitions to keep the funding for this program. CCESSA is scheduled to meet in January and will discuss the importance of this program.
- Mr. Canavan advised the committee that those going back to Washington DC will be talking about how MAA dollars are spent. Focus must be paid to educating the delegates that this is a reimbursement program for services already rendered by school districts. For this reason CMS should not be focused on how money was spent. The present regulations are for the 2008-2009 school year- reimbursement that is in the pipeline for 2007-2008 will not be affected. Concerns with CMS holding up money for 2007-2008 invoices may need to be clarified, but should not be a problem. The Kennedy/ Dingle bill is still out there and when Congress is back in session these are the issues they will be addressing. Several bills are being discussed that include one year and possible permanent moratorium language. It is anticipated that Representative Dingle will be upset about what has happened. The open question is what will they do about it with the time left? There will be lots of debates about the budget. What we need is more Republican support for the bills. It's prudent to prepare but not give up on Congresses ability to pass further moratoriums'.
- After the conference call the committee discussed reimbursement funds and how the State Plan varies from state to state. CMS may not be aware of all present facts (they're using 1998 facts) and their belief of what is happening determines their opinion. It is important to educate them through our representatives. Sue Hamblin, Jeff Holland and Marjorie Rollins will be going to Washington D.C. in late January to meet with legislators in an attempt to gain support of the continuation of the program.
- Jeff Holland, Superintendant for Sutter County Schools, was optimistic and reminded the committee that many people, across several states are in support of the program. If CMS takes this

program on holiday for a few months we need to make sure the program is not dismantled.

- The committee agreed that it is important to have a consistent voice and unified information and time frames for the possibility of closing down the program. It is important for each LEC to keep in touch with the Superintendants within their regions, updating them on how they will be handling these regulations and being available to provide information and support to districts.

7.0 LGA Liaison Report- Susan Ellyson

The LGA meeting is being held today – no report available

8.0 Sub- Committee Report – Annette Jewell

8.1 Code 1/Code 16 Matrix

1. Greg Englar and Annette Jewell worked on the Code 1/Code 16 matrix. Since there are no updates being considered for the 2008-2009 manual it appears to be moot point.
2. Discussion took place regarding percentage of Code 16 time in regards to site reviews. No action taken at this time.

9.0 Invoice news – Marjorie Rollins

DHCS has corrected the invoice form and has locked all appropriate cells.

10.0 Manual Changes – Annette Jewell

1. There was a conference call with the Co-Chairs and DHCS discussing the possible close down of the MAA program. DHCS stated that there will be no new manual changes for the upcoming school year.
2. There was no additional information from DHCS regarding the Q&A

11.0 Conference and Workshops- Michelle Cowart

1. Michelle Cowart sent an email to CASBO representatives canceling the April 29, 2008 presentation. She felt that the topic to be discussed would not be as relevant if the program were to be closed. There is also a concern that the CASBO funding source does not adequately cover the costs involved in presenting, thus leaving the County Offices to absorb the costs. LACOE has offered to cover the cost of printing materials to be presented in an effort to help shoulder the costs. Michelle Cowart will wait to hear back from the CASBO committee and report back at the February 2008 LEC Committee Meeting.
2. CCSESA will be having a meeting in Sacramento at the end of February. Marjorie Rollins and Sue Hamblin will be updating CCSESA in regards to the present status of the MAA program and LEA direct billing, respectively.

12.0 LEA Billing Report- Cathy

No report on LEA Billing provided

13.0 Code 4 –discussion

1. Much discussion took place regarding code 4 narratives and time provided on a time survey.

14.0 Host Contracts

1. Marjorie Rollins distributed information on the Host Contracts. She will be sending an email requesting input from each of the LEC's on how to develop a new system or continue to stay with the present schedule.

15.0 Review of meeting actions and homework- Debbie

Homework

- Jeff Holland will put together a list of proposed legislative bills including reference numbers; obtain a list of members on the Energy Commission and the Ways and Means Committee members for the February LEC Committee Meeting.
- Roger Chang will create a list of questions to give to the state delegates for response.
- Annette Jewell/Greg Englar will continue to work on the revisions to the Code 1/Code 16 matrix to be used as a training tool, regionally.
- Co-Chairs to discuss at their next DCHS meeting that analyst's respond to invoice explanations submitted by LEC's when a decision has been rendered. This avoids the LEC's from having to wait several months later when payment arrives, to find that the explanation was accepted.
- Marjorie Rollins will send information regarding the Budget report via email to LEC members prior to the February meeting. This will enable the LEC member to review information and prepare for the meeting.
- 05-06 Data re; revenue, is to be sent to Margie Rollins when it becomes available.
- Email Marjorie Rollins proposed DHCS -Host Contracts comments and questions for the February meeting.
- Marjorie Rollins will review our By Laws re; LEC fund for extraordinary usage.

Action:

- Sue Hamblin, Marjorie Rollins and Jeff Holland will be going to Washington DC in January.
- May meeting will be held in Orange County

Agenda items for February

- LEC Fund –budget for extraordinary usage
- 07-08 Budget Report – Marjorie Rollins
- Methodology of Budget