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Los Angeles County
Office of Education

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San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools

Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

June 3, 2021

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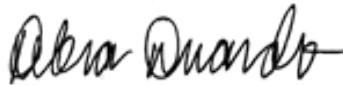
Dear Jessica Holmes and Iliana Ramos:

The above organizations write to encourage you to add the School-Based Administrative Activities (SMAA) program to the Administration's proposals creating Medi-Cal Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) and a Medi-Cal Billing Guidance and Support lead within the statewide system of support (Sections 31 and 32 of trailer bill language).

The LEA Billing Option Program (LEA BOP) and SMAA are partner programs that provide the only Medi-Cal funding that schools can directly access to reimburse for student health and mental health services. The LEA BOP reimburses schools for direct health and mental health services provided to students while the SMAA program reimburses for the cost of administrative activities related to accessing and providing direct health services.

As of July 2020, the LEA Billing program was integrated into the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS), which SMAA was previously using as their claiming system, effectively merging the two program's time study methodologies. This is a welcome change that will have the effect of helping to streamline the claiming systems, reduce duplication of efforts, and may help to increase reimbursements to schools. The 11 local education consortia (LECs) have always been system managers over SMAA and RMTS. Under the new Integration, their role with RMTS has been expanded to encompass participants involved in LEA BOP. They now provide RMTS technical assistance to those additional LEA BOP participants.

Given the significant overlap in claiming systems, participants, and system managers for the LEA BOP and SMAA programs, we believe that schools and students would benefit if the Administration were to expand its proposals on Medi-Cal PLNs and a Medi-Cal Billing Guidance and Support lead to include SMAA. We encourage you to reach out to Amanda Dickey (adickey@sccoe.org) with any questions about this request.



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