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SB 75

Senate Bill 75 | Report Addendum

Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup Recommendations

From the California Department of Education, the California Department of Health Care Services, the California Health and Human Services Agency, and the Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup

Prepared by WestEd



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Introduction

The Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup Recommendations report was submitted to the California State Legislature and the California Department of Finance on October 1, 2021. The report provides recommendations for improving coordination and expansion of access to available federal Medicaid reimbursement for local educational agencies through the Local Educational Agency Medi-Cal Billing Option Program (LEA BOP), the School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA) Program, and the medically necessary federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit in California, under the authority of California *Education Code* Section 56477, added by Section 50 of Senate Bill 75 (Chapter 51, Statutes of 2019).

The recommendations were generated between February 2020 and May 2021 through a series of stakeholder engagement activities with the Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup (“Workgroup”), a 51-member workgroup representing a wide range of education and health system stakeholders, including school-based providers, school district administrators, county office leaders, nonprofit executives, and health plan representatives. These activities were guided by a 21-member steering committee composed of staff from the California Department of Education (CDE), the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS). The steering committee guided the Workgroup’s activities and provided expert consultation regarding recommendation design. The processes for developing the recommendations and writing the final report were facilitated by WestEd.

A 21-member advisory group with representatives from the Legislature and the Department of Finance had the primary function of advising on the intent of the Senate Bill 75 legislation and associated reporting requirements. The advisory group provided an opportunity to keep staff members from the Legislature and the Department of Finance up to date on the progress of the Workgroup, and to generate a shared understanding, with Department of Finance and legislative staff, of the evolution of the recommendations. Members of the advisory group were quick to respond to the evolving Workgroup recommendations. This addendum to the Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup Recommendations report identifies the initiatives in the 2021–2022 California Budget that align with findings and recommendations made by the Workgroup.

Recommendations

Following are the recommendations made by the Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup.

Recommendation 1

State Interagency Collaboration: *Formalize state-level collaboration between education and health systems.*

- **Action 1-A:** Provide necessary resources to the CDE and the DHCS so they can hire and retain dedicated staff to establish a system of ongoing state-level collaboration.
- **Action 1-B:** Utilize an advisory group to solve problems and provide guidance related to collaboration between the education and health systems. The advisory group should include youth and families; representatives from departments such as the CDE, the DHCS, the CHHS, and the Department of Managed Health Care; and representatives from county offices of education, school districts, county mental health plans, managed care plans, and community-based organizations.

Recommendation 2

Local Agency Training and Guidance: *Provide targeted training and guidance to local education agencies (LEAs) and health plans on implementing school-based health programs to maximize billing and reimbursement on school-based health-care expenditures and to expand access to health-care services for Medicaid-eligible students.*

- **Action 2-A:** Produce training and targeted technical assistance resources for LEAs, county mental health plans, and managed care plans.
- **Action 2-B:** Create conditions that will enable collaboration between health plans and LEAs to flourish and, where appropriate and legally allowable, encourage contracts and memoranda of understanding between LEAs and managed care plans and county mental health plans.

Recommendation 3

School-Based Health Services Demonstration Sites: *Create school-based health services demonstration sites to improve technical assistance provided to LEAs about school-based health and to capitalize on recent school-based Medicaid investments and initiatives.*

- **Action 3-A:** Engage a contractor to pilot technical assistance strategies in school-based health services demonstration sites that:

- Implement new school-based Medicaid investments and initiatives;
- Produce effective partnerships among LEAs, managed care plans, county mental health plans, community stakeholders, and LEA BOP and SMAA Program vendors; and
- Provide a wider array of services to Medicaid-eligible students across all three primary Medicaid access points: (a) county mental health plans, (b) managed care plans, and (c) the LEA BOP and the SMAA Program.
- **Action 3-B:** Apply the lessons learned from the school-based health services demonstration sites to inform future technical assistance to LEAs and health plans.

Recommendation 4

LEA BOP Audit Support: *To facilitate the LEA BOP audit process, implement feedback loops between LEAs and the DHCS Audits and Investigations Division that foster collaborative learning and continuous improvement, and develop resources that support LEA audit preparation.*

- **Action 4-A:** Enhance auditor practices through auditor training informed by user experience and gather regular feedback from LEAs about their LEA BOP audit experiences.
- **Action 4-B:** Develop audit-related technical assistance processes to support LEAs before, during, and after the LEA BOP audit process.

Recommendation 5

Access to Preventive Services: *Identify options for expanding access to school-based preventive physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder services.*

- **Action 5-A:** Identify opportunities to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment in schools when risk factors exist but the child does not have a diagnosis.
- **Action 5-B:** Develop a framework for school-based preventive physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder services, in accordance with national guidelines for such services, and identify the funding sources available for each service.

Related 2021–2022 California Budget Initiatives

The following table outlines the 2021–2022 California Budget initiatives that are related to the Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup Recommendations.

Table 1. Related California Budget Initiatives

| Budget Initiative | Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup Recommendation |
|---|--|
| <p>California Education Code Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 49418) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 44, Sec. 61. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>Office of School-Based Health https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 1 • Recommendation 2 • Recommendation 3 • Recommendation 4 • Recommendation 5 |
| <p>California Education Code Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 49421) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 44, Sec. 61. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>School Health Demonstration Project https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 3 |
| <p>California Education Code Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 49422) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 44, Sec. 61. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>Technical Assistance to LEAs https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 2 |
| <p>California Education Code (commencing with Section 8900-8902) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 6, Sec. 8. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>Community Schools Partnership Act https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 3 • Recommendation 5 |

| Budget Initiative | Medi-Cal for Students Workgroup Recommendation |
|--|--|
| <p>California Education Code Part 7 (commencing with Section 5961.3) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 2, Sec. 355. AB 133 effective July 27, 2021.</p> <p>Children and Youth Behavioral Health Incentive Program https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB133</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 2 • Recommendation 3 • Recommendation 5 |
| <p>California Education Code Article 5.51 (commencing with Section 14184.100) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 7, Sec. 402. AB 133 effective July 27, 2021.</p> <p>California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal Act https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB133</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 2 |
| <p>California Education Code Article 1.5 (commencing with Section 49419, 49421, 49422) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 44, Sec. 61. AB 130 effective July 9, 2021.</p> <p>Local Educational Agencies Medi-Cal Billing Option Program https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 1 • Recommendation 2 • Recommendation 4 |
| <p>California Welfare Institutions Code Part 7 (commencing with Section 5960) by Stats. 2021, Ch. 1, Sec. 355. AB 133 effective July 27, 2021.</p> <p>Behavioral health continuum infrastructure program https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB133</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation 2 • Recommendation 3 |

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