

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

RESC Special Education Funding Working Group
Thursday, June 23, 2016

I. Call to Order

Kathy Demsey called the meeting to order at 9:06.

II. Introductions

Members Present:

Paula Colen, Executive Director, EASTCONN
Kathy Demsey, Co-chair, Commissioner of Education Designee
Erika Forte, Assistant Executive Director for Schools and Programs, ACES
Mary Glassman, Manager of Office for Regional Efficiencies, CREC
Leah Grenier, OPM Designee
Eileen Howley, Executive Director, LEARN
Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, CABA
Deborah Richards, Director of Student Services, CREC

Non-Members Present:

Kathleen Blackwood, School-Based Child Health Program, Dept. of Social Services
Sharon Bremner, Director of Pupil Personnel, East Hartford
Martha Deeds, Senior Policy Analyst, CT School Finance Project
Scott Gaul, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
Christopher Lavigne, Director of Reimbursements, Dept. of Social Services
Dorian Lockett, Assistant to Mayor Leclerc, East Hartford
Krista Pender, Asst. Director of Reimbursements, Dept. of Social Services

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting were approved with a minor grammatical edit.

Minutes and agenda are posted on the SDE website at:

<http://www.ct.gov/sde/RESCSpEdFundingWG>.

IV. Presentation on Medicaid Reimbursement by Christopher Lavigne, Krista Pender, and Kathleen Blackwood, Dept. of Social Services

- Feds provide support and guidance for School-Based Child Health Program – there are many grey areas due to overlap of medical and educational services.
- School programs need to establish “certified public expenditures” to scavenge for all costs. They need to conduct time studies through Web-based systems out of MA.
- Annually the feds review about six states in depth. They have not been to CT in a while, so we are due.
- School-Based Child Health Programs are not the same as School-Based Health Centers.

- Feds are eliminating the bundling of rates for the CT Birth to Three System.
- CT is looking to expand some services such as Section 504 students and behavioral modifications.
- Two handouts were distributed: *Medicaid School Based Child Health Program User Guide* and an excel sheet of districts that are billing Medicaid.
- There are ongoing issues with obtaining parent permission to bill. Often parents do not understand when the term Medicaid is used. Parents have concerns that this will exhaust their benefits. School billing Medicaid has no impact on parent's benefits.
- 92 districts are billing; smaller districts sometimes find it is not cost effective to bill.
- The time study requires staff to answer "in the moment". This is what drives the rates.
- Districts must provide parents notice, request consent, and then submit monthly documentation to DAS to process claims.
- State takes in about \$40 million from school-based billing.
- There are two parts to the claim – direct service and administration.
- Schools must maintain documentation of services, calendars and consents.
- Legislation requiring LEAs to bill was opposed by CAPSEF. They advocated and successfully blocked the legislation.
- Schools are reimbursed for 25% of their claimable cost. The balance of funds remain with the State.
- The SDE suggested hosting some public information sessions for parents.
- It is important that RESCs and private schools participate. Currently private schools are not participating; RESCs are participating.
- Use of billing vendors helps the larger districts.
- CASBO would be another good source for advocacy.
- There is a sample parent consent form on the Website.
- Need to incentivize districts. That could be a recommendation from the funding group.
- Transportation is a billable service if the student gets specialized services and received a billable service that day at school. 42 districts bill for transportation. Need to have a system that you can track when the student was on the bus/van.
- It would be very helpful if there were an electronic 504 plan.

V. Other

Next meeting we will review the fiscal information gathered through the district special education survey.

VI. Future Meetings

July 22, 2016

10:30 – 12:30

Location: CREC Central, 111 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT
Conference Room 202

September 12, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 AM

Location: CREC Central, 111 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT
Council Room

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37.