

# Northern California Medi-Cal Administrative Services-JPA

## Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA)

# »» ANNUAL REPORT



STANISLAUS COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
Martin G. Petersen, Superintendent



Region 2 - Glenn County Office of Education  
Region 3 - Sutter County Superintendent of Schools  
Region 4 - Contra Costa County Office of Education  
Region 6 - Stanislaus County Office of Education



## **Director's Statement**

### ***Northern California Medi-Cal Administrative Services Joint Powers Authority, 2004-05***

On Thursday, July 1, 2004, the Northern California Medi-Cal Administrative Services Joint Powers Authority (NMAJPA) was officially formed. Now one year later, we can look back at our first year and acknowledge the phenomenal steps taken - each one a major undertaking - and recognize the dedicated members, contracted trainers and enthusiastic staff who have been instrumental in making this JPA happen.

The NMAJPA evolved out of a need. Through the California Department of Health Services (DHS), the Medi-Cal Administrative Activities, or MAA, program began reimbursing schools for outreach activities starting in FY 1999-2000. The federal program evolved quickly, and in 2003-04 was re-written with more appropriate, school-friendly language. At that time, several Local Educational Consortium (LEC) members were also looking for an opportunity to help their schools more easily understand this very complicated program. They recognized the intrinsic value of the MAA program in schools: connecting students with the Medi-Cal program and health services provided by Medi-Cal providers, and generating much needed revenue for their districts/coes. What started as a conversation at a LEC Committee meeting soon became a serious discussion among four LEC coordinators, and just as quickly evolved into formalizing a four-region joint powers authority.

The newly formed JPA is made up of four county offices of education: Contra Costa County Office of Education, Glenn County Office of Education, Stanislaus County Office of Education, and Sutter County Superintendent of Schools. Each of these four COEs represents its CCSESA region as the LEC. All districts and coes within these four regions have the opportunity to be served by the JPA.

What have we offered these schools and why have they chosen to be served by this JPA? We offer trainings presented by highly qualified contracted people who understand the educational system. They are retired superintendents, speech language pathologists, principals, special education directors, SELPA directors, nurses and teachers. Their experience allows them to understand how their audience fits into the

MAA picture because they have "been there". We offer staff of the same caliber that are highly qualified in training, database management, accounting procedures within schools, auditing principles, and a very important ingredient for success: customer support.

Consequently, the NMAS-JPA has evolved within this first year into an organization supporting the MAA efforts of 157 school districts and county offices throughout Northern California. New districts join this JPA regularly, and often because of word-of-mouth referrals. Approximately, an additional 15 districts are beginning the 2005-06 year with the JPA. Around 6,000 time surveys were completed each quarter during our first year; every single survey was reviewed for errors and, if necessary, returned to the participant for corrections.

The on-line time survey, also available at our website, was a formidable undertaking. A collaborative effort between the JPA staff and the Stanislaus County Office of Education Technology Department, the on-line survey was first available for quarter one, 2004-05. Each quarter brings on more participants, with approximately 40% now completing their surveys on-line.

All member LECs, districts and county offices being served by the JPA, and citizens are encouraged to attend the Northern California Medi-Cal Administrative Services JPA Board of Directors meetings. The meetings are typically held four times per year, with one meeting during each quarter. The schedule and meeting agendas can be viewed on the NMAS-JPA web page, [www.easymaa.org](http://www.easymaa.org), or can be obtained from the NMAS-JPA office.

In closing, I would like to personally thank each and every participating member of the Northern California Medi-Cal Administrative Services JPA for your strong support of the this new venture. The exceptional effort put forth by the NMAS-JPA member LEC Coordinators, the contracted trainers, and the dedicated JPA staff has made it a most rewarding year.

The NMAS-JPA is sound and energetic, and ready to meet the challenges of the program for the districts and county offices we serve. Our intense commitment to excellence continues into a second, and equally exciting, year.

Sincerely

Susan Hamblin  
Director

## ***Program Highlights***

Achievements during the 2004-05 year:

- ◆ On-line time Survey – a collaborative effort between the JPA and the Stanislaus COE IT staff, allows participants to complete quarterly time survey on-line.
- ◆ JPA MAA Training Materials – a comprehensive participant packet designed to assist the participants both during and after trainings was initiated.
- ◆ JPA 'Train-the-Trainer' session, a one-day training for contracted staff who then present the time survey trainings, was held. Includes support materials and PowerPoint presentations on disc and overheads.
- ◆ Provided comprehensive trainings to participants within districts and coes; provided customer support by offering trainings whenever and wherever needed. All participants were required to be trained prior to the first survey period.
- ◆ MAA website, still in its constructive stage, offers member information, training materials, calendar of trainings, meeting dates, on-line time survey
- ◆ Preprinted times survey forms with participant names, job title, training date, etc.
- ◆ Processed almost 18,000 time survey forms – reviewed, followed through to ensure corrections, and collected data for billing purposes
- ◆ Built program database in Access to process time survey results
- ◆ Created internal bookkeeping system for tracking contracts, travel and expenses, invoicing, purchase orders
- ◆ JPA staff built strong relationship with both LEC and LEA coordinators.
- ◆ MAA quarterly invoices are being generated by JPA for districts/coes to be submitted to DHS by LEC for payment
- ◆ First Executive Board Meetings, Full Board Meetings, and bylaws were held.

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