

NMAS JPA Newsletter



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Director's Report

Sue Hamblin

NMAS-JPA Director

About this time of the year, I usually start humming the song by George Harrison titled "Here Comes the Sun". The weather warms up, the sun brings a smile to our faces, and before we know it, school is out and it is time to begin providing next year's MAA trainings. With no obvious Department of Health Care Services shift in direction to Random Moment Time Studies (RMTS) in the near future, the JPA is moving forward with our traditional MAA training schedules. Regional coordinators have set aside Train-the-Trainer dates for each region (indicated later in the newsletter) and training materials are in the early 'review and revise' state. May we ask that, as soon as the Q/1 MAA time survey date is announced on May 1st, that you begin scheduling your trainings for the 2012-13 year. The NMAS-JPA provided 585 live trainings this fiscal year and is preparing for as many, if not more, in the upcoming year. Remember, you may have as many trainings as you request; there is never an additional charge for any trainings, reports, or services we provide.

Regarding RMTS, the JPA is prepared and ready to serve your district's needs when the RMTS process is introduced to California. Our software has been developed in-house and we will not miss a beat with this potential transition.

An exciting new NMAS-JPA venture will roll out this fall as the JPA Board has agreed to add LEA Billing Option support to our service list. If you are not involved in this direct services program, please give us a call and we will help get you started. Those of you already billing for your direct services (treatments, assessments, etc.) who would like more information on what the JPA services will look like, please give me a call at our toll-free number 866-235-9797. As with the MAA program services, the JPA will also provide LBO support as a not-for-profit entity. We are truly looking forward to this new venture!

"Here comes the sun, and I say it's all right."

Technician Tips

Technician Tips

REVIEW LEVEL

The NMAS-JPA has two “review” levels currently available to our member districts/coes. We have received very favorable feedback for the “Review Level 1” process. Review Level 1 allows our technicians to work very closely with the survey participants and has facilitated the whole process from survey to invoicing. Also, with everyone doing more than one job during these lean budget years, it has helped save you, the MAA coordinators, both time and energy. Please contact the NMAS-JPA if you are interested in switching levels or would like further clarification of each review level. The information below is a brief description defining the two review levels.

Review Level 1: The NMAS-JPA is the only party that must review time surveys in detail; the JPA will send out corrections requests via email directly to the participant; the JPA will approve/submit surveys and request signatures upon request with the LEA. The LEA MAA Coordinator will track survey submissions, corrections and will secure signatures.

Review Level 2: The LEA Coordinator reviews all surveys for corrections. The LEA MAA Coordinator may review the time surveys online and communicate with participants regarding corrections. Then, the LEA MAA Coordinator contacts the NMAS-JPA for the final review and communicates any additional corrections to participants prior to printing and signatures. The LEA Coordinator will track survey submissions, corrections and will secure signatures. All surveys will be completed online. The surveys will not be submitted for signature without prior review by the JPA.

Please note that beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, we will no longer offer “Review Level 2” districts the ability to submit surveys. To clarify, all survey submissions must be coordinated with the regional JPA technician and the LEA MAA Coordinator. All other duties and responsibilities of the Level 2 districts will continue. If you have any questions about this change, please contact your regional LEC coordinator or call the NMAS-JPA at 866-235-9797.

SUBMIT CLARIFICATION

Please remember that until July, 2012, when you select the “SUBMIT” button when logged in as the coordinator, the survey is then finalized. If your District account is set up to notify the participants by email once their survey is finalized, the participant will receive an email asking them to print and sign.

If there are corrections still needed, the NMAS-JPA technicians will un-submit the survey and send out the correction request, depending on your review level.

For a Level 1 district, the JPA technicians will submit the surveys for you. For a Level 2 district, please wait for the correction report before submitting surveys. Remember that all surveys must be reviewed and approved by the NMAS-JPA before any submissions may occur.

By following these guidelines, we will all help alleviate some of the frustration participants may feel when they receive an email to print and sign their survey and later, an email to make a correction to that survey.

LEA Billing Option

LEA Billing Option - New to JPA

The NMAS-JPA is pleased to announce that we will be offering support for the LEA Billing Option program this fall! Also called Direct Service Billing and LBO (short for LEA Billing Option), this program is the foundation of Medi-Cal programs in California. It allows LEAs to be reimbursed for the one-on-one services provided to its students by a health care professional meeting specific licensure and credentialing. Your nurses, speech-language-pathologists, psychologists, occupational and physical therapists are the typical health practitioners in a school setting and many have been involved in LBO for several years. Unlike the MAA program dollars (which are unrestricted dollars), LBO dollars are meant to be used for the enhancement and enrichment of health related services for students and their families and may not be used for supplanting services already being provided by the LEA.

The NMAS-JPA realizes there are vendors in California who have been providing LBO services for quite a few years and many of you have built a strong relationship with these vendors. However, if you feel your rates are high or you are interested in discussing our services, please give the NMAS-JPA a call. We would appreciate the opportunity to share our vision.

Several districts have offered to be on a workgroup to help identify what district staff want the LBO services to look like. We are working closely with the design of our software and welcome any input you may wish to offer. The NMAS-JPA will continue to be a not-for-profit entity with the LEC membership foundation. Our emphasis, as always, remains “schools supporting schools.”

Random Moment Time Study

Random Moment Time Survey

The Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) option in California continues to be allowed exclusively to Los Angeles Unified School District. Eventually, the concept of a moment in time, randomly chosen electronically and requiring a quick on-line response will be available for other California districts and county offices of education. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will soon, hopefully, release the parameters within which other LEAs may be involved. Until that release and towards that end, the NMAS-JPA has developed its RMTS online process and prepared as much as we can without the actual plan to review and work from. We anticipate a short preparation time will be needed to finalize the details once the DHCS plan is approved.

We hope the DHCS plan will allow small and medium districts to join a consortium, letting them benefit from a larger group. But, at this moment, we will just have to wait and see.

Meet the Trainers

Meet the Trainers

Patricia Logan began training for the NMAA–JPA in the fall of 2009, four years after she formally retired from her position as Director Pupil Services at Modesto City Schools. Pat has a Master’s in Education and holds an Administrative Credential, Pupil Personnel Services Credential, and Secondary Teaching Credential. Pat taught Junior High School and worked as a Junior High Counselor and administrator for a total of fourteen years in Ceres, then began her career in Modesto as the Director Pupil Services for Modesto City Schools where she worked for seventeen years. Although Pat retired in 2005, she returned to work as a high-risk counselor in 2006.



Pat Logan

During that one full year of “real retirement”, Pat opened a Pearl Import Business. Pat makes and sells pearl and semi-precious stone jewelry, traveling to Beijing once or twice each year to buy pearls and semiprecious stones which she uses to create one of a kind pieces. Pat currently works part-time at Davis High School as a Parent Education Specialist and Downey High School as a High School Counselor. She is also involved in two book clubs; board member for Center for Human Services, a not-for-profit community counseling agency; holds an office with Delta Kappa Gamma, a teachers sorority; serves as a member of the West Modesto King Kennedy Collaborative, a neighborhood development project on the west side of Modesto; and is a member of the Antique Car Club of America (she has two vintage vehicles).

One can say that Pat is very involved with her community and in helping others. When Pat worked at Modesto City Schools District Office she developed several Healthy Start programs and school based clinics that have been institutionalized and continue to function even after she retired. Pat also wrote grants for Modesto City Schools – in her 17 year tenure in Modesto, Pat brought in over \$20,000,000 in funds to provide support services to low income and underserved Modesto City Schools children and their families, using MAA funds to sustain those programs and services when the grants ceased.

After retirement, Pat also participated as a member of a medical team that traveled to Guatemala for five years, working as a dental assistant with Mayan people in a small village in Comanchaj, Guatemala. Pat is currently enrolled in the Master Gardner Program in Merced and plans to volunteer after her Master Gardner certification. Pat has a son who works in San Francisco and a daughter who lives in Las Vegas and two granddaughters who currently attend college. Pat says “I love traveling to other schools to see what they are doing and take new and innovative ideas back to my colleagues in Modesto City Schools and knowing MAA from the district office perspective provides me with an opportunity to share some of my knowledge with the staff who I train”.

Regional Update

LEC Coordinators, Margie Rollins - Region 3, Michelle Cowart - Region 4, Monica Morgan - Region 5, Janice Holden - Region 6, Cathy Bray - Region 11, collaborated to create this report.

The 8th Annual NMAS-JPA conference was held March 14th-16th in Roseville, California. The conference was well attended by member-LEC Coordinators and staff from Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11. As always, the conference was a great learning and sharing experience for all. Conference topics included improvements to the MAA Time Survey process, the Random Moment Time Study methodology (RMTS), and developing JPA oversight services for a proposed LEA Billing Option Program.

The MAA program continues to expand. Even with this rapid expansion, the NMAS-JPA continues to provide efficient, effective, and accurate support for the MAA Program. Some updates the NMAS-JPA plans to implement for MAA include: smaller time survey trainings for job-alike participants, interactive online time survey trainings, updates to podcasts, and improvements to the training manual. Even as the MAA program evolves, the NMAS-JPA continues to show a strong commitment to excellence.

The NMAS-JPA is ready to offer a Random Moment Time Study (RMTS) process to districts/COEs/colleges as soon as approval is received from the Department of Health Care Services. The RMTS methodology is different from the MAA Worker Log model. The RMTS process is designed to measure the time spent by eligible participants by capturing a specific minute during the work day. A participant is randomly selected and asked three questions revolving around that single, randomly selected minute; 1) Who was with you? 2) What were you doing? and 3) Why were you doing this activity? Coders then determine the appropriate MAA code. Oversight and monitoring of the RMTS coding process is critical. Depending on the size of the participant pool, some participants will rarely have to fill out a random moment. During the conference we discussed the many details surrounding this new methodology. Kudos to the Information Technology staff at the Stanislaus County Office of Education for their research and development of a workable RMTS software program.

After years of discussion and many requests for this assistance from our districts, the NMAS-JPA will be offering LEA Billing Option (LBO) services to districts in its Local Educational Consortium (LEC) JPA membership (Regions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11) beginning Fall of 2012. This is an exciting time for all of us, and we are pleased to be able to provide you with all of your Medi-Cal billing services. If you are interested in a not-for-profit, "schools supporting schools" service provider to assist you with the LEA Billing Option, please contact Sue Hamblin, Director of the NMAS-JPA, toll-free at 866-235-9797.

The LEC Coordinators would like to thank the NMAS-JPA staff, led by Director Sue Hamblin, for providing participating claiming units with outstanding service. The work ethic of the NMAS-JPA staff is extraordinary and lends such integrity to the MAA Program, making us (as LEC representatives) all feel good about the work we do for, and with, our claiming units. The NMAS-JPA has provided many benefits for its districts in the MAA program. The NMAS-JPA LEC Coordinators are excited to begin offering both School Medi-Cal programs (MAA and LEA Billing) to the districts in their regions.

LEC COMMENTS ON CATHY BRAY

Cathy Bray, Region 11 LEC MAA Coordinator, will be retiring on June 30, 2012. Margie, Michelle, Monica, and Janice have been extremely grateful for Cathy's leadership and wonderful mentoring. We are happy that Cathy has offered to provide continual leadership and support to the NMAS-JPA and look forward to her providing MAA trainings in the future. Although we don't have the specific details at this time, the Region 11 LEC is planning for a smooth transition in June so that the LEAs will continue to receive uninterrupted services.

Region 3 -

Capital Service Region

Counties of Service:

Alpine
Colusa
El Dorado
Nevada
Placer
Sacramento
Sierra
Sutter
Yolo
Yuba

Region 4 -

Bay Region

Counties of Service:

Alameda
Contra Costa
Marin
Napa
San Francisco
San Mateo
Solano

Region 5 -

Santa Cruz Region

Counties of Service:

Monterey
San Benito
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz

Region 6 -

Delta Sierra Region

Counties of Service:

Amador
Calaveras
San Joaquin
Stanislaus
Tuolumne

Region 11 -

Los Angeles Region

County of Service:

Los Angeles

Fiscal Update

Fiscal Update

It is exciting to be preparing invoices for a fiscal quarter within that fiscal year!

Beginning April 1, 2012 the NMAA-JPA Accounting Analysts will be requesting fiscal data for Quarters 1 and 2 of the 2011-12 school year. So, please look for those e-mails from Rich Tuemmler and Rodney Kreifels.

New this year - we will be requesting data pertaining to survey participants who are part of the Medi-Cal LEA Billing Option (Resource Code 5640). These federally funded participants had previously been excluded from the MAA invoice calculation. This change went into effect July 2011.

Regional Train-the-Trainer Sessions

Regional Train-the-Trainer Sessions

The NMAA-JPA will once again provide a Train-the-Trainer session in each of the member-LEC regions this year. Although the name implies the attendees are preparing to train for the MAA program, the intent of this session is to offer LEA MAA Coordinators a stronger understanding of the MAA program and a better knowledge of the online administrative capabilities so that they will be better prepared to respond to any questions from district staff.

Regional dates are as follows:

- ◆ Region 3 - Sutter CSS August 2, 2012
- ◆ Region 4 - Contra Costa COE August 17, 2012
- ◆ Region 5 - Santa Cruz COE TBD
- ◆ Region 6 - Stanislaus COE August 14, 2012
- ◆ Region 11 - Los Angeles COE August 9, 2012 (Santa Clarita Area)
- ◆ Region 11 - Los Angeles COE August 10, 2012 (LACOE)

Details regarding times and locations will be forthcoming.
Please save these dates.



Affordable Care Act

Top 11 Benefits for California Children and Youth

The [100% Campaign](#) was created to ensure that all of California's children gain access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage. The group recently put together a list of the top 11 Benefits for California Children and Youth from the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While the entire list is interesting, we wanted to highlight one very important benefit.

4. Protections of health coverage programs for low-income children.

Over 4.5 million low-income California children have no or low-cost comprehensive health coverage through Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Programs. The ACA protects that coverage by preventing eligibility rollbacks or significant premium increases.

You can find the full list [here](#).

A Few Comments

A Few Comments from the NMAS-JPA

The NMAS-JPA feels very privileged that you continue to allow us to provide your MAA support services. We realize you have many options and hope our services and our not-for-profit status are two of the reasons you remain. The commitment of the NMAS-JPA staff remains high: we strive to provide the best support at the most reasonable rate for MAA. And now we hope to provide you the same high quality service and customer support as we roll out the LEA Billing Option program.

We want your input—no matter what you wish to tell us. Everything you share with the JPA makes us stronger and more capable of providing the services you desire—and that you have come to expect.

Important Dates

Board Meetings:

May 10, 2012 - Pleasant Hill, CA

