**Wyoming School-Based Services (SBS) Program Quarterly Newsletter**

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|  | **Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) & Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)** |
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**November 2022**

On August 18, 2022, the Center’s for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a [bulletin](https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/sbscib081820222.pdf) with additional information and guidance for Medicaid School-Based Services. The bulletin clarifies, highlights, and summarizes existing opportunities to maximize Medicaid investments in the SBS Program and youth mental health services. The bulletin also includes forthcoming changes and resources that will impact the SBS Program.

Some information in the bulletin includes:

* CMS will be issuing updates to the Medicaid School-Based Administrative Claiming Guide.
* CMS will establish a SBS-specific Technical Assistance Center.
* CMS will develop a comprehensive checklist for states to support the implementation and enhancement of the Medicaid School-Based Services program.

**CMS Guidance on new SBS Program tools**

On September 30, 2022 WDH held a training for stakeholders on Parental Consent. The training PowerPoint can be found [here](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/September-2022-Stakeholder-Meeting.pptx).

The training covered:

* The timing of obtaining the parental consent:
  + includes various opportunities for when to discuss and ask for parental consent.
* Who should ask for consent:
  + includes the training materials necessary used for the role.
* How to explain parental consent to parents, including assurances to provide to parents, and areas to emphasize.
* Strategies to increase parental consent compliance.
* Methods to notify parents annually.

**Parental Consent**

WDH has been conducting trainings for its pilot group LEAs as well as additional stakeholders and supporters of the SBS Program. Trainings have been developed based off of the status of the SBS Program, questions posed by stakeholders, and areas requiring detailed explanations.

Training Timeline and Topics include:

1. [**July 2022**](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Stakeholder-Engagement-Deck-.pptx)**:** General Updates, SPA approval and background of the SBS Program.
2. [**August 2022:**](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Billing-Documentation-Training-Deck.pptx)Guidance on Billing and Eligible Services
3. [**September 2022:**](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/September-2022-Stakeholder-Meeting.pptx)Guidance Around Medicaid Parental Consent
4. [**November 8th 2022**](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/November-2022-Stakeholder-Meeting_with-notes-.pptx)**:** Stakeholder Open Discussion
5. [**National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME) Conference**](https://www.medicaidforeducation.org/events)**:** Occurred October 24-27th, see details below.

**Training Updates**

From October 24-27th, School-Based Services Program Manager, Justin Browning, attended the NAME Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. NAME is an organization of school-districts as well as state agencies working on Medicaid claiming for school-based services. Justin’s experience is shared below:

“As Wyoming is the most recent state to allow LEAs to bill Medicaid for SBS, being a first-time attendee at this annual conference was an incredible opportunity to network and discuss best practices. The biggest takeaway was the importance of collaboration and communication amongst the LEAs, Medicaid, and state education offices to best navigate hurdles and ensure the state gets the most from their claims. We also discussed tips and tricks for documentation. During a presentation from CMS, I was proud to hear how our program is succeeding:

**- Referring Provider**: Many states require a physician’s referral for services prior to billing Medicaid. However, in Wyoming, our program allows “practitioners of the healing arts” to make referrals.

**- School Providers:** Several states don’t allow billing by school providers (i.e.: school psychologists).

**- Provider NPIs**: Wyoming is ahead of CMS which is now requiring LEAs to obtain NPIs for their providers in order to bill.

This space is not large enough to contain all the positive experiences and knowledge gained at this conference. I am already looking forward to next year’s conference in Texas and I hope members from our LEAs and WDE join in attendance.”

**NAME Conference**

Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) and Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) submitted the [Report to the Legislature](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SBS-Leg-Report-2022.pdf), required as part of the authorization for this project, Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 0020. The report includes:

* A background of the SBS Program
* Relevant action taken by LEAs
* Relevant action taken by each Department
  + Separately and jointly
* Approvals related to the SPA
* Impediments / Challenges in implementation.

**Report to Legislature Submitted October 1, 2022**

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| Link | **Website**: | Receiver | **Contact** | Email | **Email** |
|  | https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/ |  | (307) 777-7531 |  | [wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov)  or  [justin.browning1@wyo.gov](mailto:justin.browning1@wyo.gov) |

**Resources**

1. Wyoming Department of Health Main Website: [Home Page - Wyoming Department of Health](https://health.wyo.gov/)
2. Wyoming Department of Health SBS Program Website: [School-Based Services - Wyoming Department of Health](https://health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/school-based-services/)
3. Wyoming Department of Education Website: [Home - Wyoming Department of Education](https://edu.wyoming.gov/)

\*\*\*If interested in learning how to enroll your LEA in the SBS Program so that you can bill Medicaid for reimbursement, please contact the Wyoming Department of Health at: [wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov](mailto:wdh-schoolbasedservices@wyo.gov).

WDH posted a [School-Based Services Fact Sheet](https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/SBS-Program-Fact-Sheet-8.8.22.docx) on its website. The Fact Sheet provides an overview of the SBS Program, including the list of eligible services and providers eligible for reimbursement. The document includes:

1. The Goal of the SBS Program
2. The Target Population
3. Who Provides the Services
4. The Funding of the SBS Program
5. The Stakeholder Engagement Process

Stakeholders are invited to review this document and use this as a resource to understand the general breakdown of the program.

LEAs are encouraged to share this resource with the LEA staff, parents, and other stakeholders.

**School-Based Services Program Fact Sheet**

There are multiple benefits for the various types of stakeholder groups in operating a school-based services program. Stakeholders such as students, parents, schools/LEAs, and providers all benefit from the implementation of the SBS Program.

Benefits include:

1. Improved access to health care
2. Reduction of disparities
3. Overall reduction of healthcare costs
4. Increased funding to the state
5. Increased funding for LEAs

Focusing on improved access, the SBS Program enhances access to all students, specifically those in rural settings. Receiving services in the school-setting reduces the burden on families to travel and find care outside of the school setting and ensures the continuity of care for the student.

**Benefits of School-Based Services**