

Update on ULTCS Eligibility Sub-Committee

8.2.10

The Eligibility Sub-Committee began its work by reviewing the recommendations from the 2008 ULTCS Report and identifying which of the recommendations remained viable in terms of addressing current needs and achievable in the current budget environment. As a result of its work, the Sub-Committee has developed two recommendations, and is reviewing two others. These are set out below. The Sub-Committee will do a final review of all previous recommendations before concluding its work.

Recommendation #51 (Adapted)

Workgroup on Eligibility Processing

Establish a Workgroup comprised of participating state agency staff and stakeholder organizations with the goal to accomplish the following:

- 1) provide input to ODJFS regarding monitoring and evaluation of county eligibility processing and efficiency;
- 2) identify areas that could benefit from process improvement; and
- 3) allow suggestions for consideration in the development of process improvement based on sharing of best practices from local areas that have implemented process improvements.

Rationale:

The Workgroup will allow a venue for collaboration intended to look at ways to suggestions for efficiency, especially with reduced or eliminated delays in the eligibility determination process. The Workgroup could also be a forum to identify and disseminate best practices in collaboration and communication among those who interface with the CDJFS's (i.e. - *inquiries, applicants, consumers, authorized reps, providers*). This initiative is timely because of the On-Line Application (Recommendation # 29) going into effect in late October, 2010.

Recommendation #46 (Adapted)

Eliminate Face to Face Interview Requirement for Initial Applications for Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid Benefits

The current requirement for face to face interviews for initial applications for ABD Medicaid benefits should be eliminated. However, Applicants should have the option for a face to face interview. Consideration must be given to the requirements of other federal programs covered in ODJFS's common application procedures.

Rationale:

Eliminating the face to face interview requirement for initial applications for ABD Medicaid benefits will reduce overall processing time. In some cases, an applicant may want meet with the CDJFS to answer questions about the process or to clarify and information needed so that the CJFS may render a decision about the application. Particularly in those cases where the applicant is being assisted by an Authorized

Representative who will have compiled all of the required information, the face to face interview will add time to the process for no added value.

Recommendation #54.7: *Pending*

Research the possibility of counting judgments against a recipient such as child support, spousal support or a lien to pay a government agency (e.g. IRS) as an allowable deduction in order to offset the patient liability.

Follow-Up: These changes are likely not allowable given federal requirements, but Sandra Park of ODJFS is consulting with other similarly situated states to verify this.

Recommendation #54.6: *Pending*

Increase the personal needs allowance (PNA) across settings and programs.

Follow-Up: This recommendation in its current form is likely not viable because of budget constraints, but the group is considering a set of recommendations that addresses related concerns:

- Assuring lowest possible fees on PNA accounts (*the OCHA representative will develop information on this issue*);
- Increasing oversight of PNA account management;
- Disregarding cash gifts up to the PNA maximum value;
- Adjusting resource limits to the Consumer Price Index;
- Need to identify if the difference between the cost of a requested service item is less than the “comparable cost” item supplied by the facility (*Beverly Laubert will be consulted about this*)