



LCDJFS E-Newsletter

Winter 2012

A newsletter from the Lorain County Department of Job & Family Services

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Healthy Families Medicaid

By Sandra Moraco
Program Administrator

Good News.....

Medicaid is expanding the assistance group! They are now taking a “family” approach and looking at household members that should be included in the household size for budgeting and coverage. Individuals now included in the Healthy Families Medicaid group are: stepparents, specified relatives and their spouses, legal guardians or legal custodians and their spouses, fetuses of pregnant women, husbands of pregnant women, and boyfriends of pregnant women who state they are the father of the fetus.

The 90% FPL compared to the appropriate sized group is still the standard. If the family income is at



or below this standard everyone included can be covered by Medicaid. If the newly included person’s income makes the group ineligible they can be excluded and the second assistance group would be created, excluding that person.

Bad News.....

The Children’s Buy-In Program that was established in April of 2008 has been eliminated effective 10/1/2011. Those children that are currently covered by the program will lose eligibility effective 12/31/11. This program was to expand access to health care coverage for children where the family income was greater than 300% of the FPL, and a premium was paid by the family in order to receive coverage.

Medicaid Changes for Everyone on a Managed Care Plan (HMO)

By Sandra Moraco
Program Administrator

In February 2010, Ohio “carved out” the prescription coverage taking the benefit coverage away from the Managed Care Plans. Prescription drug coverage would then be administered thru Medicaid Fee for Service coverage, under Ohio Medicaid.

In October 2011, Ohio “carved in” the prescription coverage giving the responsibility to cover prescriptions back to the Managed Care Plans.

Work Participation

By Marge Kiely
Program Administrator

Since 2007 Ohio has failed to meet federally required work participation rates for families in the Ohio Works First (OWF) program. Ohio Works First is the financial assistance portion of Ohio's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash benefits to eligible needy families for up to 36 months.

OWF was designed to assist Ohioans in their journey to become self-sufficient, and work activities are a component of the program. Work participation is important because it assists those we serve in improving their skills, building their resumes, and finding employment.



In August 2009, Ohio received notification of its failure to meet both the two parent and all family work participation rates for the federal fiscal year (FFY) of 2007, and a potential \$32,758,572 penalty to the State Family Assistance Grant as a result. Ohio did file an appeal of reasonable cause for the failure to meet the rate, but the claim did not sufficiently demonstrate Ohio's claim. As a result, the State is entering into a corrective compliance plan. As part of the plan, Ohio will need to meet a two parent work participation rate of 90 percent and an all family rate of 50 percent in FFY 2012. Federal law requires that adults receiving cash assistance must work at least 30 hours a week, or involved in allowable work activities such as on the job training, community service and education related directly to employment. Failure to meet these rates within the time frame will result in a financial penalty applied against the state resulting in a negative impact to programming and allocations in all counties.

Along with the State Corrective Action Plan, each County is responsible to develop and incorporate a corrective action plan of their own, to ensure they are achieving the required rates.

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has taken several steps to bring Ohio into compliance:

- Requiring OWF applicants to complete a self-sufficiency assessment and be assigned to job search activities before receiving their initial assistance check.
- Hiring additional hearing officers to ensure timely hearings for OWF recipients who have been sanctioned for failing to meet work participation requirements.
- Developing a new web based time and attendance verification system that will allow caseworkers to more easily verify when work eligible individuals complete work hours.
- Improvements are being made to enhance the usefulness of case management reports, including providing the data more frequently and detailing county performance.
- Launching 'Ohio Works Now', a temporary program that will provide a small additional TANF benefit (\$10 per month) to eligible working families with children, allowing those families to be counted in the state's work participation rate. The benefits will be food assistance benefits, not cash assistance benefits.
- A media campaign to inform the public about the work requirements associated with the TANF program.

Meeting our work participation requirements is essential. First and foremost, we must avoid federal penalties, which will have a detrimental effect on how we are able to serve our community. We also must fulfill our responsibility to the families we serve, and provide the work supports and training that they need to overcome barriers to employment, allowing them to rejoin the work force, and regain their self-sufficiency.

LCDJFS Child Care Providers

By Lucy Wanderi
Supervisor

There are about 175 Professional Type B Home Day Care Providers in Lorain County. Child Care Provider workers conduct home inspections at least two times a year to each Professional Type B provider's home, making sure that these Providers are in compliance with Chapter 5101:2-14 of the Ohio Administrative Code, and that these homes are safe for Lorain County children. They monitor providers for continued education/ training, background checks, health and safety, record keeping and total compliance with new rules and regulations.

Child Care Provider workers also conduct investigations of any complaints that come to our office within 5 business days. If the complaints are serious, a Provider's certification is revoked and the matter referred to the appropriate authorities.

At the beginning of 2011, child care eligibility changed with the CCIDS program from 200% to 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). That means that fewer families are eligible for child care benefits. This change in benefits has not affected our Type B Home Day Care Providers. My take on this, is that due to the bad economic times in Lorain County, there are fewer good



jobs out there, and that most of these families are the "working poor" and still eligible for child care benefits even with the reduction in the FPL. Other families still maintained their benefits at the 200% FPL, if their redetermination was done timely without a break in service. The Professional Type B Home Day Care Program is growing and still thriving in Lorain County. Thus far in 2011, this unit has certified 12 new Professional Type B home Day Care Providers. A class of about 15 new pre-certifications completed training at the Child Care Resource Center in December.

Lorain County CSEA Success Story

By Ann Eckstein
Child Support Administrator

It all started when the obligor's case was referred to the Lorain County Prosecutor's as a felony non-support. After a series of pre trials, the obligor and his attorney agreed that he would remit the sum of \$38,005.95 to his child support arrears. This money was to come from the obligor's Boilermaker's Pension Fund. Upon receipt of the funds, the criminal case was to be dismissed. The date of the journal entry setting forth this agreement was 12-29-04.



Believe it or not, the criminal case remained active on the docket until 2011! Meanwhile, as most of you already have guessed, a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO) was needed in order to attach the funds in the pension.

Several QDRO's were submitted to the pension fund plan administrator beginning in 2006. However, after each submission, the QDRO was returned with instructions for various revisions. Finally, the IV-D prosecutors prepared a QDRO which was accepted in its entirety.

On 5-31-11, the court found that the obligor owed \$56,507.35 in arrears and ordered monies up to that amount to be taken from the pension. As a result, in September 2011, a total of \$53,166.17 was received from the Boilermaker's Pension Fund. It was a long wait, but it was worth it! Additional good news is that the obligor is currently employed. The criminal case was dismissed on 9-6-11.

Contact LCDJFS

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