



Department of Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Douglas E. Lumpkin, Director

Date: May 19, 2009
To: All Interested Stakeholders
From: Erika Robbins, MFP Project Director
Re: Money Follows the Person (MFP) Update

Update #1:

We modified the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Operational Protocol and received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on April 30, 2009. We are working to reformat the operational protocol to match the CMS approval and will post the updated version to the webpage in the next couple of months. In the meantime, here is a summary of the approved changes to the Operational Protocol.

- We updated it to reflect the amended HOME Choice Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule changes.
• We added assisted living home and community-based waiver services as qualified services only when the assisted living facility meets the qualified residence definition. Please note that we cannot implement this change until our computer systems are ready. It may take us several months to do the necessary computer updates to implement this change so stay tuned for a start date on this one.
• We added MR/DD Council of Government (COG) entities to the list of available transition coordinators to better meet the needs of the MR/DD delivery system. COGs may now submit provider agreements directly to ODJFS.
• We added a provision to allow ODJFS to designate providers/local entities as transition coordinators when participants have limited choices and need alternatives.
• We clarified language to match the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 Section 6071 terminology. Participants have to receive a Medicaid benefit while in the inpatient facility prior to discharge, however the benefits do not need to equal 30 days. As long as there is evidence of a benefit paid, the participant meets this particular MFP eligibility requirement.
• We received approval to include children residing in inpatient facilities (licensed residential treatment facilities) as participants of MFP. So, Ohio's definition of "institutional" settings includes nursing facilities, ICF/MR facilities, hospitals and residential treatment facilities for children. The potential participant must still meet the six-month continuous stay requirement.

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- We added language to allow MFP participants enrolling on one of the Department of Aging home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers to choose the MFP demonstration service known as community transition service instead of the HCBS waiver service with the same service definition. This matches the newly approved OAC rules.
- We added language to permit the billing of HOME Choice demonstration services on the date of discharge to ensure continuity of care.
- We updated the Operational Protocol's section on Quality to reflect new ODJFS "ongoing review" strategy and updated home and community based waiver sections.

We plan to submit another amendment to the operational protocol in the fall or winter. We intend to modify the protocol to reflect the following:

- We will update the Ohio Long-Term Services and Supports balancing plan following conclusion of the biennial budget to align the balancing plan with the strategic goals for state fiscal year 2010 and 2011. Ohio will also provide information on the Ohio Profile on Long-Term Services and Supports with expected completion in the fall or winter of 2009.
- We will also provide greater detail on stakeholder involvement following development of the consumer council referenced in section B4 of the operational protocol.
- We will submit any additional updates to the waiver quality strategies. For example, we anticipate a 7/1/09 approval of the Choices waiver appendix H.
- As we continue to build self-direction opportunities, we anticipate that the potential use of a "debit card" may be piloted through the MFP program for the community transition service.
- We will share more detail on the Quality of Life Contractor process necessary to conduct the 11- and 24-month follow-up surveys.
- We may include language to implement rental assistance for MFP participants for implementation sometime in calendar year 2010.

We encourage you to continue to share "what works" and "what doesn't work" with us so that we can identify any additional changes needed to ensure that the HOME Choice transition program works to the benefit of participants. Please send your comments to the MFP e-mail box at mfp@jfs.ohio.gov.

Update #2:

CMS plans to conduct a site visit on **July 15 and 16 in Cleveland**. We are planning the agenda and will send details out soon. CMS would like to meet with transition coordinators and case managers as well as participants in process and already transitioned. If you are interested in participating in the site visit, hold these two dates on your calendar.

Update #3:

The Front Door Stakeholder Group will soon begin discussion of Ohio's Level of Care policy (nursing facility and ICF/MR facility based levels of care). The work will begin in the Fall of this year. If you have interest in joining the stakeholder process in the Fall, please send me your contact information via e-mail at crika.robbsins@jfs.ohio.gov.

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