

TO: Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

FROM: Betty Rice, Director
Division of Consumer and Local District Relations

SUBJECT: Medicaid Buy-In Program for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD) Monthly Reports and Related Issues

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Local District Support Unit
Upstate: (518) 474-8216 NYC: 212-268-6855

The purpose of this GIS message is to remind local districts of four items related to the Medicaid Buy-In program for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD) that need immediate attention.

First, local districts are reminded of reporting requirements for the MBI-WPD program set down in 04 OMM/ADM-5. Page 13 of the Administrative Directive states, "Due to federal reporting requirements, select MBI-WPD data must be reported monthly by all local districts. Local district staff must use the MBI-WPD Monthly Report form (Attachment VII of 04 OMM/ADM-5) to report necessary data. The report form must be received in the Albany Central Office by the fifth day of every month and cover data for the previous month. The form may be submitted via U.S. mail to the MBI-WPD Coordinator or by e-mail..." Because local districts assumed responsibility for the MBI-WPD program on July 1, 2004, the first monthly reports were due in the Albany Central Office by August 5, 2004. To date, only a few counties have submitted a report. In order to comply with federal reporting requirements, it is imperative that all local districts submit reports for August, September and October by November 5, 2004. If reporting via e-mail, please note that there has been a change in address. Please submit e-mail reports in Word format to:

Maw12@health.state.ny.us

Second, local districts are reminded that all disability determinations for individuals who are working and claim to have a disabling impairment, including Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) must be performed by the State Disability Review Team in Albany. Local districts are also reminded that an award letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is acceptable proof of disability. If an individual loses SSDI cash benefits because of income related to work, the award letter may still be used as proof of disability and the SSA diary date (the date when SSA would have performed a continuing disability review) may be used for the date that the local district would be responsible for initiating a disability package and sending it to the State Disability Review Team for a MBI-WPD disability determination.

Third, local districts may request a fair hearing summary from the State Disability Review Team in Albany for disability determinations performed for the MBI-WPD program. To request a disability determination summary for a fair hearing, please contact Peggy Williams at (518) 473-0891 as soon as the fair hearing request is received. The disability determination summary will be prepared and sent to the local district along with a copy of the medical evidence used to make the determination.

Finally, local districts are reminded that Disability Awareness Training will occur at three locations across the state in October. The training curriculum has been tailored to expressly address the work of the front-line local district workers in their interaction with Medicaid Applicants/Recipients (A/Rs) with disabilities. The training is designed to offer local district staff the skills and problem-solving techniques that can help them work effectively and efficiently in partnership with A/Rs who have disabilities.

SCHEDULE OF TRAINING			
DATE (2004)	LOCATION	A.M. SESSION	P.M. SESSION
October 15	Holiday Inn Kingston, NY	8:30AM - 12:00PM	1:00PM-4:30PM
October 22	Holiday Inn Arena Binghamton, NY	8:30AM - 12:00PM	1:00PM-4:30PM
October 25	Buffalo/Niagara Marriott Buffalo, NY	8:30AM - 12:00PM	1:00PM-4:30PM

Each local district is encouraged to send at least two staff members to the half-day training. However, we can accommodate as many staff as districts wish to send. Travel expenses to and from the training will be reimbursed via State voucher. Written instructions for reimbursement of travel expenses will be distributed at the training.

To register your staff for the Disability Awareness Training nearest you, e-mail (preferable) or call:

Margi Trapani
 Director, Communications & Education
 Center for Independence of the Disabled
 New York, New York
 212 674-2300 ext. 130
mtrapani@cidny.org

Please register as soon as possible.

Any questions concerning the training may be directed to Peggy Williams at (518) 473-0891.