

State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

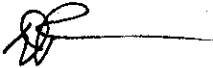
Jeb Bush
Governor

Lucy D. Hadi
Secretary

Date: October 20, 2006

To: District/Region Administrators

Through: Nancy Dreicer, Acting Assistant Secretary for Operations

From: David Fairbanks, Director of Provider Relations 

Subject: Medicaid Waiver Enrollment for DCF Child Welfare Clients on the APD Wait list

This memo is to update you on plans for enrolling child welfare clients on the Agency for Persons with Disabilities' Medicaid Waiver, in accordance with legislation passed last session. This legislation gives our mutual clients priority for waitlist standing, just below clients with crisis needs. We are pleased that this process is close to kick-off, with offers of enrollment to be mailed very soon.

Thanks to the help of the CBC's statewide, a total of 349 DCF clients have been carefully cross-matched to the APD waitlist. APD projects that FY 06-07 funds are sufficient to enroll up to 340 child welfare clients this fiscal year. Thus, APD will prioritize the DCF children according to waitlist order, and offers will be sent to the first 340 individuals on the list.

Their Waiver enrollment process will be essentially the same as APD uses for other applicants. One key difference: typical enrollments allow for only a 15-day response window, while enrollment offers to child welfare clients will be valid for the entire FY 06-07 fiscal year. CBC's will obtain informed consents from parents or guardians, as they do for other programs where confidential information is exchanged. Case managers can then work directly with their area APD liaisons and waiver support coordinators in planning for their mutual clients' needs.

For clients whose parents' rights are terminated, the department (as legal guardian) will authorize the enrollment of children on the waitlist and the sharing of information between the CBC and the APD area office and support coordinators.

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

As soon as this process is ready to roll out, we will send each District/Region Administrator a list of the clients in their District/Region who will receive an enrollment offer from the APD area office. The APD area offices will also hand-deliver to each District/Region Administrator copies of letters sent to clients whose parents' rights are terminated (see samples below). The list, as well as the letters, should be shared with your CBC(s), as appropriate, so that CBC case managers can begin working with these clients and families, and be supportive of the enrollment process.

This will be a major benefit to our clients with developmental disabilities, and your support in linking our clients with these services is essential. We expect the process to move smoothly, but want to hear from you if you encounter barriers that need attention from our headquarters team.

The attachments below are provided to assist you and your staff with the enrollment process. All but the first item were sent by APD to their area offices late yesterday afternoon. It includes fact sheets, sample offers of enrollment that will be sent to the guardians of our clients, and (last item) a list of APD area office liaisons who are designated to work with the CBC's on Waiver enrollment.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Debra Ervin at 850-487-2062, or Debra_Ervin@dcf.state.fl.us

CC: Community-Based Care CEO's