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EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

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To: Eligibility Services – Regional Directors
Program Managers
Eligibility Services Supervisors
Regional Attorneys
Hearings Officers

From: Stephanie Stephens, Director
Policy Strategy, Analysis, and Development
State Office 2115

Subject: Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

Bulletins are sent to supervisors and other regional managers, who must share the information with eligibility staff. Please ensure copies are provided to staff without access to email. For questions regarding the information in this memo, follow regional procedures. Find active bulletins at the following respective handbook websites:

- Medicaid for the Elderly and People with Disabilities (MEPD):
http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/mepd_policy/index.htm
- Texas Works:
http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/texasworks_bulletins/index.htm

ICPC

Background

HHSC received federal approval to provide health care coverage for individuals living in Texas who aged out of foster care under an ICPC agreement. This includes both individuals placed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) in foster care in other states and individuals placed in foster care in Texas from other states.

Current Policy

Currently, Texas provides Medicaid to individuals who aged out of foster care at the age of 18 or older in the State of Texas. These individuals are covered under the Former Foster Care Children (FFCC) or Medicaid for Transitioning Foster Care Youth (MTFCY) programs. Certain

individuals placed by DFPS in foster care in other states or individuals placed in foster care in Texas from other states are not eligible.

New Policy

Individuals placed by DFPS in foster care in other states and individuals placed in foster care in Texas from other states under the ICPC agreement are eligible for MTFCY and Former Foster Care in Higher Education (FFCHE). The individuals must:

- Have aged out of foster care at age 18 or older,
- Currently reside in Texas, and
- Have had an ICPC agreement.

Individuals must also meet all other MTFCY or FFCHE eligibility requirements, with the exception of income and asset tests.

ICPC Verification Process

Centralized Benefits Services (CBS) will continue to process MTFCY and FFCHE eligibility. Until system changes are complete, CBS staff will contact DFPS staff to determine if the individual had an ICPC agreement. The mailbox used to verify the ICPC agreement is: FCADOMEDEX@dfps.state.tx.us. DFPS has three business days to respond.

Once verification is received, CBS staff must:

- In the **Individual Household** LUW, click  for the appropriate individual.
 - In the **Other Information** section, select YES to the question “Was the individual in Foster Care/VolAg Conservatorship on their 18th birthday?”
 - Select the appropriate response from the **Type of Conservatorship** drop-down menu.
 - Select “Texas” from the **If Yes, State** drop-down menu.
 - Select “User Research” from the **Verification** drop-down menu.
- Document in TIERS **Case Comments**, “Verification of ICPC agreement was made on mm/dd/yyyy with (name of DFPS staff) and the individual is eligible for (program).”
- Set a special review two months prior to the ICPC MTFCY client’s 21st birthday.

If the individual aged out of foster care in another state and was not under an ICPC agreement, the individual is not eligible for MTFCY or FFCHE. CBS staff will process the applications following normal office procedures.

MTFCY Process

CBS staff must send ICPC MTFCY clients that are not eligible for FFCC the following forms two months prior to aging out of MTFCY:

- Forms H1868/H1868-S, Application for Health Care Benefits,

- Forms H1870/H1870-S, School Enrollment Verification Form,
- A business reply envelope, and
- Document in TIERS Case Comments, “Special Review completed; Forms H1868 and H1870 mailed to client.”

Health Plan Coverage

Individuals certified for MTF CY are automatically enrolled in STAR Health through the month of their 21st birthday. STAR Health provides a full range of Medicaid covered medical and behavioral health services for DFPS clients. An individual may opt out of STAR Health for STAR, which allows for a choice of health plans.

Individuals certified for FFCHE receive benefits through the STAR Health program.

Handbook

Staff will be informed when the Texas Works Handbook is updated.

Automation

The current process of contacting the help desk when staff are unable to create and/or dispose an MTF CY, FFCHE or FFCC EDG will continue. Until automation changes are made for the ICPC individuals eligible for FFCHE, CBS staff must:

- Complete and submit the TIERS Application Support Email Ticket Submission Form:
 - In the **Detailed Description of the Problem** section (#1 on the form), enter “ICPC individual needs FFCHE”, and
 - The expected result (#2 on the form) should indicate the client has ICPC agreement and is eligible for FFCHE. Request for the ticket to be assigned to Carmen B. Hernandez.
 - In the Subject Line of the email, enter “ICPC individual needs FFCHE per TW Bulletin 15-02 dated 10/01/2014.”
- Document the ticket number in TIERS Case Comments.

Effective Date

The process is effective October 1, 2014.

Training

There are no training requirements.