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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 94 LCM-74

Date: June 28, 1994

Division: Office of Employment
Programs

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Development of Job Opportunities With
Medicaid Managed Care Providers

ATTACHMENTS: I: Listing of Managed Care Providers
(Not Available On-Line)
II: Letter to Managed Care Providers (Available On-line)

The NYS Department of Social Services' Office of Employment Programs (OEP), in conjunction with the Division of Health and Long Term Care (DHLT), have met with Medicaid managed care providers and contractors regarding the Jobs FIRST initiative. We have asked that these employers consider providing work experience slots and employment opportunities to public assistance recipients as they continue to expand their service. State representatives will continue to give presentations about Jobs FIRST at various regional meetings of these providers, and districts are encouraged to discuss the development of opportunities with their local providers.

Managed care will play a major role in the reform of the Medicaid system. Currently, this Department has approved over 45 Medicaid managed care providers and expects further expansion. As the number of families and individuals enrolling in managed care programs increases, providers will require additional staff to handle increased workloads.

Each local social services department is encouraged to contact the local provider to discuss these employment possibilities. A listing of providers is attached for your information. A letter to these providers regarding employment programs is also attached.

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Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the OEP staff person working on the development of employment opportunities, Russ Oliver, Userid AV2030, (518) 474-9286.

Sue Kelly
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Health and Long
Term Care

Jack Ryan
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Employment Programs

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
40 NORTH PEARL STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

MICHAEL J. DOWLING
Commissioner

JACK RYAN
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Employment Programs

June 3, 1994

Dear Managed Care Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding the New York State Department of Social Services' Jobs FIRST initiative, the central element of welfare reform in this State. The goal of this initiative is to improve the lives of individuals and their families receiving public assistance by stressing the importance of work and providing every opportunity to find work. We would like to incorporate opportunities provided through the expansion of Managed Care into this strategy. The following employment options are available to managed care providers:

Work Experience - Public Assistance recipients are assigned to a public or nonprofit agency to access opportunities to develop, demonstrate or maintain basic work habits. Work Experience assignments reinforce the work ethic by providing meaningful training and employment opportunities to the recipient. For those without a work history, work experience can be a useful source of job references. Participants are not paid by the employer, but instead work a designated number of hours based on their public assistance grant.

Grant Diversion - Grant diversion programs provide on-the-job training through the diversion of public assistance grant monies to employers to partially offset the cost of training recipients. Participants perform work duties in a given occupation, under the supervision of a trained worker or instructor. The trainee is on the payroll of the employer from the onset of training and receives the same benefits and has the same responsibilities as any other new employee. Trainees are expected to enter unsubsidized employment as a direct result of their participation. The local social services department carefully screens and prepares candidates to ensure that all persons referred to the employer are properly qualified. Maximum flexibility is provided to meet the employer's needs, with the ultimate hiring decision resting with the employer.

On-the Job Training - Public assistance recipients are employed by a private sector employer and while employed, receive training that the skills and knowledge needed to learn the job. Participants are under the supervision of the employer and are on the payroll of the employer from the onset of training. They receive the same wage and benefits as any other new employee. The employer is paid directly by the local social services department in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the wages paid to the participant for a period of ten to twelve months.

Training - Social services departments can also help coordinate specific training programs to prepare recipients for jobs. These programs can be provided directly by the local social services department or by other local educational organizations or job training agencies.

I have attached a listing of Employment Coordinators within each local social services department to allow you to take advantage of these opportunities. Please call these individuals for more information and/or to schedule a meeting to discuss your employment needs. They have already received a copy of this letter. To discuss these programs with a State Office of Employment Programs staff member, please call Russ Oliver at 1-800-342-3009, extension 4-9286 or (518) 474-9286.

Please help us in providing real employment opportunities for individuals and families receiving public assistance, thus enabling them to move towards self-sufficiency.

Sincerely,

s.JR:>6/3/94

Jack Ryan

Attachments

cc: R. Cardona