

**Status of Family Investment Program Recipients
Referred to Substance Abuse Treatment
Third and Fourth Quarters FY 2006
January-July 2006**

Introduction

This is the 27th in a series of reports mandated by the Welfare Innovation Act (WIA) of 1997. These reports track the progress of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) in implementing the provisions of the Welfare Innovation Acts of 1997 and 2000. Background material, which continues from report to report, appears in regular type. New material appears as lightly highlighted text, as is this part of the sentence.

I. Screening and Tracking of TCA Applicants and Recipients

A. DHR Substance Abuse Treatment and Services (SATS) Program

The Welfare Innovation Act of 2000 required the hiring and placement of Addictions Specialists in Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) to conduct screening, testing, assessments, referrals, and reporting for Temporary Cash Assistance adult and minor parents. This program, called the Substance Abuse Treatment and Services (SATS) program has operated statewide since February 2002. The 66 Addictions Specialists (including supervisors in some jurisdictions) in LDSS offices throughout the state also screen and refer certain Food Stamp applicants and recipients, such as custodial parents who are convicted drug felons. The later have been eligible to receive benefits since September 2001 but are subject to substance abuse testing for two years. The addictions staff captures screening, referral, and enrollment information in monthly reports, which they send to the DHR Family Investment Administration (FIA) and to the DHMH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA).

B. Tracking and Reporting.

In December 2005, FIA and ADAA began the SATS Data Enhancement Project. The goals of the project are to integrate the SATS program into ADAA's electronic reporting system – Statewide Maryland Automated Records and Tracking (SMART), implement a standardized screening and assessment process for the SATS program statewide, and expand the program to include additional FIA populations. The project is being conducted in three phases: (1) assessment and replacement of equipment needs to ensure capability to access the SMART system; (2) training the SATS addictions staff to use the SMART system and standardized tools; and (3) a trial run of the current SATS program on the SMART system. The trial run on the system will be used in a study to determine the capacity of the program in order to plan for a new SATS contract

that reflects any necessary adjustments in funding and staffing to implement screening and assessment of FIA's Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) population.

At this juncture, Phase One of the project is near completion. FIA has completed the assessment of the equipment and is purchasing the needed replacements, which has been slowed by a delay in the procurement process. Once the equipment is in place, Phase Two will begin. FIA anticipates that the training and study will be completed by the end of June 2007 and the changes will be in place to begin in fiscal year 2008.

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II. Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for TCA Recipients

Until 1997, Maryland Medicaid only covered residential substance abuse treatment programs for children and adolescents in Intermediate Care Facility-Addictions (ICF-A). The (Maryland) Welfare Innovation Act of 1997 required that the Medicaid Program cover ICF-A services delivered to TCA parents who were age 21 and older. The Medicaid Program subsequently secured approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to offer this service and to receive federal financial participation for it.¹

The Medicaid Program pays for these services on a fee-for-service basis, with funds for the State's share of the cost provided by ADAA, which transfers funds to Medicaid. ADAA serves as the gateway to these services, with the ADAA Residential Treatment Coordinator authorizing admissions. Between January 1 and June 30, 2006, nineteen TCA recipients, all women, entered treatment under this program. Seven women left against medical advice (AMA) and twelve completed treatment.

III. HealthChoice Substance Abuse Workgroup

The HealthChoice Substance Abuse Workgroup meets on the second Thursday of the month from 1:00-3:00. It allows substance abuse treatment providers, MCOs, and BHOs to raise and resolve substance abuse issues under HealthChoice and also serves as an educational forum on current or emerging treatment issues, such as co-occurring disorders. During the Third Quarter, the Workgroup met at Maryland General Hospital, hosted by New Vision Service and the Center for Addiction Medicine. In the Fourth Quarter, the Workgroup met at Priority Partners/Johns Hopkins HealthCare in Glen Burnie for the April and May meetings. Subsequent meetings will be held at regular but not monthly intervals in the O'Connor State Office Building in Baltimore.

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¹ The legislation also called for Medicaid to provide these services to enrollees under 18 in Group Homes and age 18 and older in Halfway Houses and [Residential Drug Free \(Therapeutic Community\)](#) programs, but CMS denied this request.

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