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TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors**
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators

FROM: Amy Mendel-Clemens
Technical Assistance, Training & Education
Section
Bureau of Eligibility Management
Division of Health Care Financing

BEM/DWS OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	07 - 30				
DATE:	06/28/07				
FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SC	<input type="checkbox"/>
CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	CC	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>
WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	EP	<input type="checkbox"/>	★
PRIORITY: HIGH					

SUBJECT: **Nursing Home Resident Relocation Program for Persons with Mental Illness – Community Opportunities and Recovery**

CROSS REFERENCE: Operations Memo 06-17

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

This memo outlines the process for IM agencies to follow for institutionalized individuals who have a serious mental illness when they wish to relocate from a nursing home into the community.

BACKGROUND

Wisconsin's new Medicaid (MA)1915 (c) Home and Community Based (HCB) Waiver program called Community Opportunities and Recovery (COR) is designed to relocate nursing home residents with mental health disabilities and co-occurring physical disabilities into the community. At present there are approximately 500 individuals residing in nursing homes that have been identified as needing specialized psychiatric rehabilitation services for their mental illness. These individuals are adults who meet the nursing facility level of care.

The COR waiver design includes case management and a mix of recovery focused services appropriate to support this target group, including periods of intense supervision and support

necessary to remain safely in the community. The COR waiver will provide the array of services needed that are not currently available under the MA state plan or under mental health plan benefits such as assistance with basic activities of daily living and in-home and residential supports.

The Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) will administer the COR Waiver.

POLICY

The COR Waiver is effective July 1, 2007 with a gradual implementation planned around the state. Agencies should see the first relocations later this summer or in early fall. The Department is expecting that, statewide, approximately 50 individuals will be served in the first year of operation, 150 in year two, and 250 in year three. All of these individuals will be relocated from a nursing home into a community setting and most of them will already be MA eligible.

As with all of the other HCB waivers, COR is not an option in existing Family Care counties and will be eliminated as an option as Family Care expands into counties where COR has been implemented.

NURSING HOME RELOCATION PROGRAM

Individuals who wish to participate in the COR waiver must meet all of the following criteria in order to qualify:

- Reside in a nursing home.
- Have a serious mental illness.
- Have a physical medical condition, or be elderly (65 or older).
- Have a nursing home level of care as determined by the LTC Functional Screen.
- Meet Medicaid home- and community-based waiver financial and non-financial criteria.

Agency Action

The COR waiver will use the existing financial and functional eligibility policies and processes now in place for the Community Options Program Waiver (COP-W). From an Income Maintenance perspective, COR waiver eligibility and cost-sharing requirements are identical to those associated with COP- W. No changes to CARES or the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) will be necessary to determine COR waiver eligibility. COR waiver recipients will be indistinguishable from COP waiver recipients on CARES and MMIS.

As with previous nursing home relocation initiatives (see Operations Memo 06-17), IM workers will, upon request by the care manager, use CARES simulation to show how different scenarios (living back at home, living in a CBRF, remaining in a nursing home, etc.) would affect MA eligibility and cost share.

The simulated budget screens ECED and ECSC should be printed and forwarded to the case manager. For those individuals who are potentially Group C Spousal Impoverishment Cases, the IM worker will also need to provide a copy of the Spousal Impoverishment Income Allocation Worksheet. The occurrence of this type of case should be minimal.

CONTACTS

Direct questions regarding policy or the processing of these cases, including the use of simulation, to the BEM CARES Information & Problem Resolution Center.

★Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – Food Stamp Employment and Training, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

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