

MSC E-VISORY

Issue # 09-10

March 26, 2010

State of New York Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner
Distributed by: Division of Policy and Enterprise Solutions
Gary Lind, Deputy Commissioner

The MSC E-Visory is an electronic advisory distributed to MSC Supervisors. Each issue provides pertinent and timely information about programs and services available to individuals receiving MSC. Announcements about MSC training, conferences and meetings appear regularly. **MSC Supervisors: Please forward this issue to all MSC Service Coordinators and others as appropriate.**

The MSC E-Visory is sent out from OMRDD via an e-mail distribution list. To update or add a name of an MSC Supervisor, contact msc.e.visory@omr.state.ny.us. Please type "MSC E-Visory LIST Change" in the SUBJECT line and include in the body of the email the following information: e-mail address, name, title, and agency name. Please indicate ADD or REMOVE from the MSC E-Visory distribution list.

In this issue:

Additional Materials from the Statewide MSC Supervisors Video Conference – March 25, 2010.

Separately attached to this E-Visory is the Employment Update PowerPoint which was presented at the March 25, 2010 MSC Supervisors Video Conference. This is in addition to the materials distributed with MSC E-Visory #08-10 (dated March 22, 2010).

Medicaid Changes effective April 1, 2010

Two significant changes will occur to the Medicaid program effective April 1, 2010. As of that date individuals will no longer be required to appear for face-to-face interviews when they apply for Medicaid. However, persons can still ask for application assistance if necessary. The Medicaid application form will also change. The revised application is called ACCESS NEW YORK HEALTH CARE (DOH-4220). Please refer to attached information: Medicaid Changes effective April 1, 2010. The forms and instructions can be accessed on the OMRDD website under Medicaid, at:

<http://www.omr.state.ny.us/wt/publications/msc/index.jsp>

Save the Date:

The MSC Supervisors Development Team Third Annual MSC Supervisors Conference:

“Effective Leadership in Changing Times”

Thursday October 28, 2010

Metro NY DDSO

See attached flyer for additional information

MSC Supervisors Video Conference

March 25, 2010



Employment Update

Presented by Joanne Bushart
OMRDD Center for Employment
Excellence

Employment Update

- Employment First Agenda has been developed to: improve the quality of life for people with development disabilities through community contribution
- Main elements of Employment First are to promote employment and volunteerism
- Status of the Employment First Platform

Employment Update

- An important element of the platform is to strengthen existing partnerships around employment
- VESID is the lead agency in NYS that provides employment services to all people with disabilities

Employment Update

Overview of eligibility for VR services

- Person desires employment
- There is a physical or mental impairment with functional limitations that results in a substantial impediment to employment
- Individual can benefit from VR services
- Individual requires VR services to obtain employment

Employment Update

- VR counselor determines the person's eligibility for VR services
- VR counselor gathers information from person and or referral source
- VR counselor may request additional assessments
- Individual and VR counselor explore services that can lead to an identified employment goal

Employment Update

- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Developed with the person and approved by the VR counselor
- Identifies an employment outcome consistent with the person's strengths, interests, abilities capabilities and informed choice
- If needed, assessments may be conducted to develop the employment plan *

Employment Update

- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- outlines VR services leading to goal
- outcomes and services must occur in the most integrated settings
- Has timelines and markers for progress
- Outlines responsibilities of VR and the person
- Signed by both person and VR counselor

Employment Update

- Relationship of VR services and HCBS WAIVER supported employment
- VR services are always the first source for supported employment services because:
- Medicaid is always the funding source of last resort

Employment Update

- In order to access HCBS supported employment without first using VR services, there must be documentation indicating that these services are not available under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended.
- A letter from VESID or note from the MSC documenting that VESID funds are not available at the time is considered appropriate documentation.

Employment Update

- Exceptions to the VR first rule are:
- ETP program (VESID does not fund the services for this program)
- ESEMP (an agreement was worked out between VESID and OMRDD)

Employment Update

- Recent dialogues have occurred between OMRDD and VESID about eligibility as a result of the liability regulations
- People in supported employment need a source of long term funding identified
- Many people going through VESID need to have eligibility established for long term funding for supported employment

Employment Update

- We wanted to find out what the referral and provision of VR services looked like in our communities
- Thank you for your participation in our recent survey!
- For those that did not respond, please feel free to do so!

Employment Update

- MSC survey results: Overview
- 79 Agencies responded
- Average supervisory caseload: 9
- Lowest number: 1; Highest: 75
- How are service coordinators informed about VESID? 15 different sources
- 94% of respondents have referred at least one person to VESID

Employment Update

- 90% of respondents were aware of the VESID offices in their communities
- 88% of respondents indicated that VESID provides an orientation for people interested in services (this is required)
- Do MSCs receive a copy of the IPE? (*must be listed as interested party)
- Yes: 37% No: 19% Sometimes: 44%

Employment Update

- Average length of time to meet with a VR counselor:
- Less than 1 month: 21 responses
- 1- 3 months: 33 responses
- 3-6 months: 6 responses
- Varies: 7

Employment Update

- On average, how long does it take from referral to initiation of VR services:
- Less than 1 month: 5
- 1-3 months: 29
- 3-6 months: 16
- 6 months- 1 year: 4
- 1 year +: 8
- Varies: 13

Employment Update

- Denied Services?:
 - Yes: 52%
 - No: 48%
- Satisfaction level with services:
 - Very good: 11%
 - Good: 36%
 - Fair: 47%
 - Poor: 6%

Employment Update

- How can a MSC help a person with employment goals?
- Initiate referral to VESID as early as possible
- For students start raising VESID at age 14, 15, 16: planning for employment is a transition requirement
- Explore with VESID the need for employment assessment (s) for those people who are not sure of what they can do or want to do.

Employment Update

- Think Outside of the Box:
- How can you assist the person to keep the dream alive?
- Volunteering
- Visiting Supported Employment agencies
- Explore other options for Employment:
 - ETP, ESEMP, OPTS projects
- Department of Labor One Stop Centers (*DPN)

Employment update

- Has anyone ever helped a person find a job?
- How did you do it?
- Networking

Employment Update

- OMRDD wants to enhance our knowledge and broaden our perspectives about employment.
- Please share any experiences that you may have had with employment that produced good results.
- How can we improve the services that help to support people at work?
- Please email us at:
- Centerforemploymentexcellence@omr.state.ny.us
- Thanks!

Medicaid Changes effective April 1, 2010

Changes

Please be aware that two significant changes will occur to the Medicaid program effective April 1, 2010. As of that date individuals will no longer be required to appear for face-to face interviews when they apply for Medicaid. However, persons can still ask for application assistance if necessary.

The Medicaid application form will also change. The revised application is called ACCESS NEW YORK HEALTH CARE (DOH-4220) and will replace the green and white "Application for Temporary Assistance (TA) – Medical Assistance (MA) – Medicare Savings Program (MSP) – Food Stamp Benefits (FS) – Services (S), including Foster Care" for health insurance only applications. The major change to the revised application is that questions about an applicant's resources have been removed and may now be found on a supplemental form (Access NY Supplement A (DOH 4495 A)). Please note: Persons requesting coverage for HCBS waiver services must complete Supplement A and provide documentation of their current resources. Persons requiring care in an Intermediate Care Facility or Developmental Center must complete Supplement A and include documentation of their resources for up to 60 months prior to the date of application.

This revised application is also for use in filing for other public health insurance, which includes questions related to eligibility for Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus. Both of these programs require enrollment in managed care plans. Individuals applying for Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus will be directed to select a plan by completing Section I of the application. Keep in mind Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus do not cover any OMRDD services.

The revised application also allows individuals to add the name and address of a contact person who can receive notices about their Medicaid case in addition to the applicant. The contact person can be designated to do one or more of the following:

- Apply for and/or renew Medicaid for the individual
- Discuss the individual's application or case
- Get notices and correspondence

Individuals will need to fill out both the Access New York Health Care and Supplement A to apply for Medicaid to cover OMRDD services. Copies of these documents are attached.

Documentation

For proof of identity and US Citizenship, individuals must provide original documents or copies certified by the issuing agency. Many local Medicaid districts will not accept original documents by mail, so applicants must check with the local district before mailing these documents along with the application. A list of items that may be used to prove Identity and U.S. Citizenship and Date of Birth is contained in the attached, "DOCUMENTS NEEDED WHEN YOU APPLY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE". Once a person's citizenship and identity have been documented and recorded in the case file, subsequent changes in eligibility should not require repeating the documentation, unless later evidence raises a question of the person's citizenship or identity. Persons in receipt of Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Benefits, or entitled to or enrolled in Medicare, are exempt from these requirements because they have already provided documentation to the Social Security Administration. Individuals can mail photocopies of other required documentation along with their applications.

Assistance

If you have any questions about the new application process you may contact Marge Ciaccio of OMRDD Field Operations who can be reached by telephone at 518 402-4339 or by email to Marjorie.Ciaccio@omr.state.ny.us. You may also direct questions to your local OMRDD Revenue Support Field Office (RSFO). Click on the following for a list of [Revenue Support Field Offices \(RSFOs\)](#)

David A. Paterson
Governor

Diana Jones Ritter
Commissioner



SAVE THIS DATE!

**THE MSC SUPERVISORS DEVELOPMENT TEAM PRESENTS
THE THIRD ANNUAL MSC SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE**

“Effective Leadership in Changing Times”



DATE: Thursday OCTOBER 28, 2010

TIME: 9AM-5PM

**LOCATION: Metro DDSO
75 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014**

A variety of speakers and workshops will be offered to MSC Supervisors and Directors of Medicaid Service Coordination to further develop knowledge and understanding of what it means to be an MSC Supervisor, the impact you have on your staff and the lives of the individuals we serve. The conference will give you the opportunity to network with a variety of supervisors. Bring your business cards!

Look for registration and workshop information in June!
(Training credits will be provided)

WE HELP PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LIVE RICHER LIVES.