

Income Maintenance Advisory Committee WSSA Annual Report - June, 2013

As the WSSA representative, I attend a monthly meeting (in person or by phone) which includes Economic Support Policy Advisory (ESPAC) and Income Maintenance Advisory (IMAC) committees. This meeting is held the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Effective January 1, 2013, the W-2 program is being administered by contracted agencies. The Counties were unable to get the contract due to the language in the RFP. Forward Service Corp. has the majority of the contract along with Southeast Area ResCare, Inc., Northwest Area Workforce Resource, Inc. and Western Area Workforce Connections.

The Food Stamp Employment & Training (FSET) program regionalization would begin July 1, 2014 and would be completed by January 1, 2015 if the Governor's budget passes. This was opposed by WCHSA and PAC stating that it is not customer friendly to make clients go to another agency.

Client Scheduling was implemented for Cares Worker Web (CWW) in November and it was a pretty smooth transition. The Call Center now schedules intake and review appointments for customers while they have them on the phone. Each County was able to set up their schedules in CWW which was very beneficial.

Performance Standards - Income Maintenance Management Reporting has been implemented and the agencies are being monitored on timeliness. Timeliness issues affect the error rate with the State/Federal Agencies. There is a State/County workgroup that is working on the problems and issues found regarding the tracking system to help make the reports accurate. There is a discussion starting to see if the State would be willing to hold off on implementing sanctions especially with all the changes happening this fall.

As of the writing of this report, the State budget has not been finalized so I am unable to give good details on those changes which are going to be numerous. The only change that seems to be set is that adults will NOT be eligible for Badgercare if over 100% of poverty and any adult under 100% of poverty will be eligible for Badgercare. These are huge changes and will affect many individuals. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) will take effect in October and those individuals over 100% will be able to get health insurance through the Federal Exchange System now called "The Marketplace". The Badgercare Core wait list of over 150,000 individuals will now be eligible for Badgercare or the Marketplace. There have been additional funds allocated to the Counties to hire new staff to help with the influx of new cases. These workers will need to get through the New Worker Training plus the new trainings related to the PPACA to be able to do cases. This is going to be a very difficult and confusing time for all people involved in these changes. All parties will try to make the changes as smooth as possible and we are hoping that the information provided to consumers is clear and available in the near future.

These are only the highlights of what has happened over the last year. The IMAC committee has a website www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/imac/ where all information is kept. Please check it out to find out more of what is happening in Income Maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

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