
 Department of Human Resources 311 West Saratoga Street Baltimore MD 21201	FIA ACTION TRANSMITTAL
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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
 DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
 FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS**

**FROM: 
 KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA**

**RE: AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL SERVICES FOR TCA CUSTOMERS
 PARTICIPATING IN WORK ACTIVITIES**

**PROGRAMS
 AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)**

**ORIGINATING
 OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH**

BACKGROUND:

For the last six years, The University of Maryland (UM) Dental School provided care to AFDC recipients who were participants of Maryland's previous welfare-to-work program, Project Independence (PI). This program was quite effective in improving the facial appearance and self-esteem of selected PI participants, thereby improving their employability. During that time more than 700 recipients were treated. Care was provided by dental students at the school and the program was very cost effective. This extremely important resource is still available at UM Dental School.

It is well documented that the need for dental care in the TCA population is still very high and that poor dental appearance affects employability. Since the focus of welfare reform is work, not training, and all applicants for TCA must seek employment immediately upon application for cash assistance, the need to address esthetic dental issues is even greater. Although the PI program is no longer in existence (it is now referred to as "Work Opportunities") the University of Maryland received a funding increase to continue to provide dental services to the TCA population. The UM Dental School can now accommodate up to 25 new referrals weekly.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Local programs need to reestablish a referral network for appropriate TCA customers to access this service. It should be kept in mind that under *HealthChoice* some Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) provide dental care and are paid a capitation fee for services. Customers who are selected for the UM Dental School should be those needing extensive dental work or cosmetic work beyond those services that are provided at the MCO.

Local departments should develop participation selection criteria for dental referrals that include current enrollment and active participation in a work activity. Selected customers should be apprised of the requirements of the UM Dental School:

- Failure to attend two scheduled appointments without notice at the UM Dental School results in a customer being discontinued from the program.
- Participants must pay an initial \$10 to enter the program. This fee may be paid from work activities funding.
- Transportation for initial and follow up visits must be arranged by the customer or DSS designated program coordinator.
- Designate LDSS staff to forward referrals to the Dental School. This person may arrange the customer's initial visit to the Dental School by calling or faxing:

Miriam Dyson

Dental Practice System
666 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1586
(410) 706-2400
FAX (410) 706-3028

ACTION REQUIRED OF: All Local Departments of Social Services

ACTION DUE DATE: Upon Receipt

INQUIRIES: May be directed to Phyliss J. Arrington, Office of Policy and Research at (410) 767-7079 or Rita Lewis, Office of Work Opportunities at (410) 767-7432. The UM Dental School may also be contacted directly at the number above for brochures and further details concerning the benefits and services provided by the program.

Cc: FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Executive Staff
UM Dental School