

Dave Lyda, TANF Program Manager

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-IM-07-010

Issue Date: 08/10/2007

Topic: Other

Subject: TANF Redesign - Weekly Q & A

Applies to (check all that apply):

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> | Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify): All SS Staff Only |

Message:

This is the introduction of a weekly Q&A resulting primarily from Day 2 of the Summits. There has been some policy clarification since the early Summits. We will continue to answer questions as we can, focusing on your top 10-20 weekly.

You may submit questions you would like to see answered in this weekly message. We will be considering these questions as we develop future training.

Your Top 10...

1.) What about those interested in Voc. Training who may have some criminal background, but not that would preclude them from the type of work they are seeking training for? Please clarify.

Answer: If it is criminal history that would not preclude the individual from obtaining a job in the VT field of interest then there is not a concern and we would proceed with the VT process. If there is question as to whether or not a particular criminal history would preclude someone from obtaining a job in a field of interest, the VT staffing is in place to discuss those issues of concern. The ideal situation would be to identify those barriers to employment up front so an individual does not go through all the leg work to find out it is not a viable field.

2.) I would like more clarification on DOR versus when a client comes in and when the 45 day assessment period ends.

Answer: The Assessment Program (which will be renamed Pre-TANF) begins with the Date of Request (DOR) for TANF benefits. The DOR is the date the DHS office receives a TANF request for benefits and can be established through a phone call, visit, or written request by the client or another person or agency acting on the client's behalf. The Pre-TANF Program cannot be longer than 45 days from the DOR.

3.) In a two-parent family, if one parent is cooperating and the other is disqualified, does the COI still get removed?

Answer: Yes. The COI is an incentive payment that is made based on the number of people in the need group. If one person does not cooperate and is disqualified, the COI is removed and it affects the whole family.

4.) How often must screenings already offered and completed (such as the LD screening), be reoffered?

Answer:

- Alcohol and Drug – Minimum: Every 12 months, unless there are indicators. During re-engagement, when the previous screening was declined.
- Mental Health – Minimum: Every 12 months unless there are indicators. During re-engagement, when the previous screening was declined.
- Learning Needs Screening – Once should be appropriate when the screening is completed. However, there may be a need to repeat the screening and that is acceptable. During re-engagement when the previous screening was declined.
- Physical Health – The DHS 7823 'My Self Assessment' is considered our screening tool for physical health issues. The 7823 should be renewed once per year.

5.) Can training be offered so that people understand ADD, ADHD and OCD and the learning these people have?

Answer: Additional training is being developed to address more specific disability issues, accommodations, and documentation.

6.) Will there be any statewide form to be filled out prior to disqualification, e.g., re child safety issues?

Answer: The TRACS Re-Engagement (currently TRACS Conciliation page) is required to be completed and finalized prior to imposing a disqualification. If the Re-Engagement process is not documented using the TRACS Re-Engagement page, the disqualification may be overturned.

7.) Will clients who are on closed cases with an old DQ CD receive a letter that the DQ is now erased?

Answer: **No. These individuals will not be receiving a letter.**

8.) Will DQ's come off closed cases or will this wait until they are re-opened?

Answer: **On October 1, 2007, all inactive DQs will be removed from the Case Descriptor on CMS. This will happen regardless of whether or not there is an open TANF case.**

9.) Can JOBS payments be made during the 2 weeks of cooperation?

Answer: **Absolutely. Support service payments must be provided if necessary for the client to participate with the requirements of their case plan.**

10.) How many excused absences can a client have during the two week cooperation period before it is lengthened or starts over.

Answer: **The client participates with their case plan for a two week period of time. As long as there is good cause there could be many excused absences. Remember that the plan could be as little as attending treatment two times in the next to weeks. Case plans for the two-week participation are developed in partnership and reflect the needs of the client and family at that point in time.**

If you have a question you would like to see answered in this weekly message, please send it to linda.weight@state.or.us

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

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