

Dave Lyda, TANF Program Manager

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**Number:** SS-IM-07-015

**Issue Date:** 09/17/2007

**Topic:** Other

**Subject:** TANF Redesign - Weekly Q & A

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |                                     |                               |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <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, JOBS Partners |

**Message:**

Here is your 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 Questions...**

- 1.) The policy transmittal for the September one-time re-engagement opportunity said that workers should follow-up by the 14th of September if client has not contacted the branch. What constitutes following up?

**Answer:** The worker can follow-up through a phone call or if possible a home visit. Central office will also be sending a letter to the field that can be used as a tool for follow-up.

- 2.) For clients that come in during the September one-time re-engagement opportunity, When does cash get restored?

**Answer:** In order to get the current disqualification and all prior disqualifications or penalties removed, the client must: meet with a worker, complete a DHS 7823, sign a DHS 7819 and develop a PDP in partnership with the worker. The grant gets restored the date the

client agrees to re-engage. The date could be when they make contact with the branch to take part of the opportunity. For example, if a client calls the branch on September 12 and agrees to meet with the worker on September 13, cash is restored effective September 12 because that is the date the client agreed to re-engage.

- 3.) Does the Post-TANF 'PT' plan have to be signed by the client? The reality is the 'UN's that transition off do not always sign a plan.

**Answer:** No; Post-TANF is a core activity. The case plan does not have to be signed for core activities. If it will be difficult for the client to go to the office and sign the plan, the client should be informed of the contents and be given a copy of the plan. OAR 461-190-0151 will be revised effective October 1, 2007. The preference is that the client signs the plan.

- 4.) Will Post TANF payments count against OHP?

**Answer:** No.

- 5.) For closing PT once attendance is entered, if you have to close after two months, will the computer let you if the attendance is there for six months?

**Answer:** When the revision is made to TRACS that allows you to enter PT attendance in advance, you will also be able to modify it, if it changes.

- 6.) If person is on DJ6/P2, how do we know if it is active and will convert to DQ4?

**Answer:** You will know it is active if the DJ6 is included in both the case descriptor and the need resource. Many of the cases in disqualification status have been or are being reviewed to determine if the disqualification was applied correctly.

During the conversion effective October 1, the cases still coded with active disqualifications will be converted to the new disqualification structure. A policy transmittal will go out soon with more details.

- 7.) For non-needy caretaker relatives, can we write a PDP and provide support services payments?

**Answer:** Yes, non-needy caretaker relatives and parents who receive SSI can participate in an approved case plan when they volunteer and a determination is made that it is in the best interest of the family. Starting October 1, 2007 the Department will consider any income or resources the NNCR or SSI recipient has in meeting the need.

- 8.) Is caring for a spouse with disability also an exception for time limits? Or only for caring for a child with disability?

**Answer:** Yes; both will be exemptions. The time limit policy effective October 1, 2007 will include a time limit exemption for when the adult or minor head of household cannot find employment because he or she is caring for a disabled family member, who is in the home, and not attending school full-time.

It will also include an exemption related to caring for a child with a disability that prevents the adult or minor head of household from becoming employed.

9.) Can you let us know when revised forms will become available?

**Answer:** Revised forms and brochures will be delivered to field offices during the last week of September. A memo with instructions will accompany the distribution. Also, an IM will be sent to the field with a brief description of the revisions.

10.) The need resource codes PT1 and PT2 require an end date. If, for example, a client doesn't provide work hour documentation until 3 months after their TANF ended, what would be the PT end date?

**Answer:** The Post TANF client has 45 days from the end of their TANF benefits to provide work hour documentation. If documentation is provided after that date, the client will only receive Post TANF benefits from that month forward and the PT end date would not change - or up to 6 months after TANF benefits end.

For example, a client goes over income in September 2007 and is eligible for a payment in October. The Post TANF period is the 12-month period for them of October 2007 through September 2008. She does not bring in work verification until December 2007. She would be eligible for Post TANF payments from December 2007 through September 2008. The PT 1 maximum end date would still be March 31, 2008 (assuming the client is expecting to work enough hours through that date). The PT 2 end date would be September 30, 2008 (again, assuming the client is expecting to work enough hours through that date).

**If you have a question you would like to see answered in this weekly message, please send it to [linda.weight@state.or.us](mailto:linda.weight@state.or.us)**

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Linda Weight		
<b>Phone:</b>	(503) 945-6119	<b>Fax:</b>	(503) 373-7492

<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:Linda.weight@state.or.us">Linda.weight@state.or.us</a>