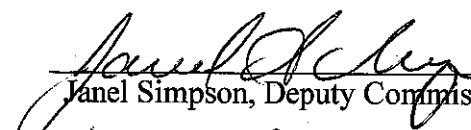
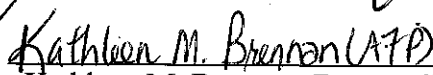


STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN


 Janel Simpson, Deputy Commissioner


 Kathleen M. Brennan, Deputy Commissioner

10/14/16
 Date

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO: 16-06

PROGRAM: SAGA/MFP

Subject: SAGA Program Clarifications for Money Follows the Person (MFP) participants.

<p>Overview</p>	<p>The Department's Money Follows the Person program (MFP) represents a unique initiative to help individuals leave institutionalized care and have more productive and rewarding lives in the community. Originating in federal law, MFP is a federal rebalancing demonstration grant to help states rebalance their Medicaid long-term care systems.</p> <p>MFP educates Connecticut Medicaid recipients of their choices as they move across the spectrum of Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) by emphasizing person-centered planning and informed choice.</p> <p>MFP supports the state's Strategic Plan to rebalance LTSS and is designed to support older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers in choosing their preferred means, mode, and place in which to receive LTSS.</p> <p>MFP transitions consumers from institutional settings back to community-based living by elimination barriers, allowing consumers to return to the setting of their choice.</p> <p>The purpose of this PIB is to clarify SAGA eligibility criteria and procedures so that the goals and outcomes of the MFP program are better supported.</p>
<p>SAGA Categorical Medical Eligibility Requirements</p>	<p>Categorical medical SAGA eligibility requirements for MFP recipients can now be fully satisfied if the individual was previously residing in a long term care facility receiving nursing facility level of care for at least the last 90 consecutive days immediately prior to applying for SAGA.</p>

<p>SAGA Categorical Medical Eligibility Requirements (cont.)</p>	<p>This previous 90 day long term care stay will now qualify the client for SAGA as Short Term Transitionally eligible for (six) 6 months with no need to submit additional medical documentation and without needing a CCC medical packet or finding. These individuals will also be considered exempt from the “labor market connection” requirement based on his or her previous 90 day long term care stay.</p> <p>Verification of a previous long term care stay for MFP clients can be taken from the DSS ASCEND system.</p> <p>At time of 6 month review, these MFP individuals will need to complete a CCC packet to determine ongoing SAGA cash eligibility.</p> <p>MFP program participation status can be found by looking on the EMS INST screen where an “MP” segment indicator will appear on the “INST TYPE” field.</p>
<p>Pursuit of Social Security Income and W-650 Requirements</p>	<p>As the goal of the MFP program is to encourage employment and self-sufficiency for all participants (even those with impairments), the requirement to pursue Social Security benefits and complete a W-650 will not be imposed on this group at time of application for SAGA. As each MFP client has an individually contracted case manager, individual timelines for self-sufficiency will be developed with each client and the need for referrals to Social Security for potential income will be individually decided. Referrals to Social Security and the completion of the W-650 for these individuals should only be mandatorily required by DSS staff at the time of the 6 month SAGA review unless otherwise indicated by the MFP case manager.</p>
<p>Central Office Centralized Case Processing</p>	<p>Eligibility determinations and case processing for the MFP program is centrally processed at DSS Central Office, Division of Health Services-Community Options Unit, 9th floor, 55 Farmington Ave., Hartford, CT 06105-3730. All MFP consumers are assigned to an eligibility services worker in this C.O. division and remain in that worker’s case load while the consumer is in the community for 365 days. These centralized C.O. eligibility staff handle all programs for the consumer, not just MFP.</p> <p>As such, if an MFP consumer appears in a DSS Field Office Service Center or calls a DSS Benefit Center for assistance with his or her MFP, SNAP, SAGA or other DSS program, he or she should be directed to call 1-888-992-8637.</p> <p>In addition, Field Office staff should collect any information the consumer has, especially paperwork, and send to Scan-Optics or fax to DSS CO MFP at 860-424-5313.</p> <p>Again, MFP program participation status can be found by looking on the</p>

	<p>EMS INST screen where an "MP" indicator will appear on the "INST TYPE" field.</p> <p>*Please note, when the consumer has completed his or her 365 days with the demonstration a "PM" indicator will appear on the INST screen in the "INST TYPE" field.</p>
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Disposition: Retain for future reference.

Distribution: Eligibility Staff

Responsible Units: Economic Security Unit.....860-424-5540

Date Issued: 10/14/16

DJB