



PROVIDER ALERT



Alert #12 – 2008 – 6-25 – HCAL, ALDA

Allegheny Work Ready Pilot Program

Beginning July 1, 2008, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Bureau of Employment and Training Programs will be implementing a new pilot program in Allegheny County to better assist individuals with behavioral health and physical health needs who are receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) benefits to connect to needed services. Community Care is supporting the Allegheny Work Ready Pilot Program by helping to educate providers about the program and by assisting pilot participants to access needed mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Persons receiving TANF benefits have employment and training requirements that they must meet as a condition of receiving cash assistance. DPW recognizes that some persons may be experiencing mental or physical illnesses that prevent their participation in the training and employment activities. These individuals can be exempted from the DPW employment and training requirements while they participate in treatment and other needed services.

Through the Allegheny Work Ready Pilot Program, outreach staff will assist individuals receiving TANF benefits in identifying barriers to employment. To assist with this work, the state has revised the PA 635 Medical Assistance Form (including treatment plan section) for medical professionals and has developed a behavioral health screening tool for Work Ready staff to help identify individuals who might benefit from receiving mental health and drug and alcohol services. Work Ready staff will also assist individuals with referrals for assessments and ongoing treatment, and will support individuals to participate in their recommended treatment plan.

Behavioral health providers in Allegheny County may be contacted by persons participating in the pilot program, Work Ready outreach workers, or Community Care staff for assistance in completing the PA 635 Medical Assessment Form, developing a treatment plan or connecting to needed behavioral health services.

You can view the updated PA 635 Medical Assistance form and other documents related to the Allegheny Work Ready Pilot Program by visiting the Community Care website at www.ccbh.com. If you have further questions about the pilot program, please contact the Community Care Customer Service Line at 1-800-553-7499 and you will be connected with a Care Manager. You can also contact Jennifer Wallitsch at DPW's Bureau of Employment and Training Programs at 717-265-8955 or at jwallitsch@state.pa.us or your Community Care Provider Relations Representative at 1-888-251-2224.