

## Questions and Answers regarding MCAH, BIH, and AFLP Policy Alert Letters

### MCAH

**1. Are Local MCAH programs still required to have a Toll Free Telephone Line?**

Yes. The Toll Free Telephone Line is a Title V State requirement. Local MCAH programs are still required to have a Toll Free Telephone Line. The Local MCAH program may choose to utilize an MCAH dedicated phone line; incorporate an MCAH phone line with a local 2-1-1 phone line; or some other telephone information service. A system to track and refer calls related to the MCAH population should be developed by the MCAH program if the MCAH program is using a non-dedicated MCAH phone line.

**2. Are Local MCAH programs required to contact all parents/caregivers who experience a presumed SIDS death to provide grief and bereavement support services?**

Yes. Local MCAH programs are required to contact all parents/caregivers who experience a presumed SIDS death to provide grief and bereavement support services. A contact may consist of a home visit, personal phone call or a personal letter to the parent/caregiver.

### AFLP

**3. Will AFLP agencies be penalized with a loss of allocated Month of Service (MOS) in FY 2010-11 if they experience a decrease in the MOS during FY 2009-10?**

No. MCAH Division recognizes the extraordinary hardship that the State budgetary crisis of FY 2009-10 has placed on the ability of local AFLP agencies to function efficiently. The MCAH Division is available to assist local AFLP agencies regain clients and increase their MOS over the remainder of FY 2009-10.

**4. Have the eligibility requirements for AFLP enrollment and length of service changed?**

Yes. The requirement is to enroll pregnant and/or parenting adolescents, female or male, up to the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The enrolled client may continue to participate in the program for 18 months following the birth of the index child. Please submit a waiver request to your Program Consultant if your agency wishes to enroll an adolescent over the age of 18 years into AFLP. The intent of this new age requirement is to focus AFLP services on the highest risk and youngest clients.

**5. How should AFLP agencies discontinue currently enrolled clients over 18 years of age in FY 2009-10?**

On a case-by-case basis, agencies will develop an exit transition plan for each client. Current clients will be “grandfathered” into the AFLP for fiscal year 2009-10, i.e., until June 30, 2010. Grandfathered clients will include all clients currently enrolled in AFLP who are over 18 year of age or have been enrolled in AFLP greater than 18 months after the birth of the index child. All agencies will follow the new policy to exit clients 18 months after the birth of the index child. Submit a waiver request to your Program Consultant for clients requiring continuing AFLP services. All AFLP clients should meet the age requirements by July 1, 2010.

**6. Should an adolescent that turns 18 years old while on the AFLP waitlist be allowed to enroll in the AFLP?**

No. The updated AFLP policy is to enroll pregnant and/or parenting adolescents, male or female, up to the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. MCAH Divisions encourages agencies to monitor their AFLP wait lists, enroll clients according to need, and provide appropriate referrals for other services or programs as needed.

**7. When should AFLP clients who fail to participate in the Program be discharged?**

AFLP clients who fail to participate in the Program should be discharged after a maximum of six months of non-participation.

**8. Are AFLP agencies allowed to use local agency funding to exceed their allocated MOS?**

Yes. Agencies may contribute local agency funding to the AFLP budget to augment their current Title V allocation and exceed their allocated MOS. The contribution of non-federal local agency funds to the AFLP budget may be used to maximize the use of available matching federal funds claimable under Title XIX.

**9. How will agencies retroactively include up to two MOS for outreach contact with an individual client who subsequently enrolls in AFLP?**

The State, in conjunction with representatives from Branagh Information Group and AFLP Regional Representatives, will discuss changes to Lodestar programming and data collection to reflect retroactive outreach contact for AFLP clients.

**10. Will Branagh Information Group be updating Lodestar forms to match AFLP policy changes?**

Yes. The Lodestar system and forms will be updated to reflect AFLP policy changes. The State, in conjunction with representatives from Branagh Information Group and AFLP Regional Representatives, will discuss future changes to Lodestar programming and data collection. No changes have been made at this time.

**11. Will Lodestar be set up to automatically track the end date for program participation or are agencies required to calculate the end date for each client?**

The State, in conjunction with representatives from Branagh Information Group and AFLP Regional Representatives, will discuss future changes to Lodestar programming and data collection. No changes have been made at this time. In the interim, agencies must calculate client end dates.

**BIH**

**12. Are BIH Programs allowed to consolidate their Program and funding with the MCAH Program?**

No. BIH Programs will continue to operate with independent budgets, staff and SOW.

**13. Will the current BIH SOW for FY 2009-10 remain unchanged?**

No. The SOW for FY 2009-10 has been revised to reflect the loss of State General Funds in the BIH Program. The changes are as follows:

- Each LHJ will continue to implement the Prenatal Care Outreach and Care Coordination Model. The Case Management, Social Support and Empowerment, and Role of Men models may be implemented at the discretion of the LHJ.
- The requirement to identify a specific percentage of BIH clients to be served has been eliminated from the SOW.