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MCO Communication Bulletin #73

Date: December 20, 2013

To: LME-MCO CEOs

From: Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Contracts Section, DMA, and
Walt Caison, Best Practice & Community Innovations Team Leader, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Eligibility Changes in Status of Health Choice Recipients

This is to notify you that approximately 70,000 Health Choice children will have their eligibility shifted to Medicaid as of January 1, 2014, making the LME-MCOs responsible for their behavioral health services.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) and applicable regulations consolidated many eligibility groups for Children under age 19 into one Group. Certain mandatory and optional groups in place prior to 2014 have been moved into the newly consolidated infants and children groups. ACA mandates minimum Medicaid income limit of 133% FPL for children under age 19.

Prior to January 1, 2014 these children whose income exceeds the MIC-N limit are enrolled in North Carolina Health Choice (NCHC) with Medicaid classification of "J" or "A".

Effective January 1, 2014, children age 6 to 19 above 107% (MIC-N) but less than 133% will be enrolled in MIC-1.

Beneficiaries and their families will be receiving notification of the change in their benefit plan, which will include the need to contact their LME MCO and/or their provider to ensure there is no interruption in their services.

Please ensure appropriate coverage and/or transition of the services of these recipients. Unfortunately, we cannot provide you with a listing of these beneficiaries and their services at this time, as the determination will not be made until the end of December in NC Fast. In January, DMA will work with

ValueOptions to facilitate the transition process, especially for children in residential settings and those that have been receiving intensive care coordination through ValueOptions.

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