



SPAN
35 Halsey Street
4th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 642-8100
(973) 642-8080 - Fax
E-Mail address: span@spannj.org
Website: www.spannj.org

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.

Family Voices comments on the NJ Care Special Medicaid Programs Manual

10/29/07

We are writing on behalf of Family Voices-NJ concerning the proposed amendments to NJAC 10:72, the NJ Care Special Medicaid Programs Manual. Family Voices is a national network on behalf of children with special healthcare needs and our NJ Chapter is housed at the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, NJ's federally funded Parent Training and Information Center. In addition, SPAN is the Family-to-Family Health Information Center for the state.

Overall for section 10:72-1.1 (b) 4iii and 10:72-1.1(c) 1, we agree with the deletion of outdated references to benefits. This also holds true for sections 10:72-4.3(a) 1-4 as they reference NJAC 10:82 which was repealed in 1999. We also support replacing the terminology NJ KidCare throughout the document with NJ FamilyCare.

Under section 10:72-3.4(a) 1 we agree with deleting the adjective "needy" and just using the terminology "women" as the eligibility criteria are clearly detailed.

Regarding section 10:72-4.2(a) 1, we agree with determination of household income being reduced from two months to one month (prior to application or redetermination), which may help expedite the process.

In reference to section 10:72-4.3 (d), we agree that parents are the legally responsible relatives of infant, and the spouse of a pregnant woman "is the legally responsible relative of the pregnant woman only".

Under section 10:72-4.4 (c) 2, we agree with deletion of "clothing" as in-kind support.

For section 10:72-4.5 (b) 3, we are concerned that the look-back period has been increased from 30 to 36 months for LTC (long term care) and HCBW (home/community based waivers), as this may impact eligibility for some individuals. We would like to see the current timeline of 30 months retained, or there needs to be a safety net mechanism for individuals who may lose their benefits.

Regarding section 10:72-7.5(a) 3, under presumptive eligibility we agree with the new language on the permanent ID card (or authorization letter) rather than the Medicaid card, and that benefits will not be affected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to NJ Care Special Medicaid Programs Manual.

Sincerely,

Lauren Agoratus, M.A.-parent
NJ Coordinator- Family Voices at the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Central/Southern Coordinator, Family-to-Family Health Information Resource Center
35 Halsey St., 4th Fl.
Newark, N.J. 07102
(800) 654-SPAN ext. 110
Email familyvoices@spannj.org
Website www.spannj.org

Our Mission: To empower families and inform and involve professionals and other individuals interested in the healthy development and educational rights of children, to enable all children to become fully participating and contributing members of our communities and society.