TO: RBHA CEOs and TRBHA Directors

FROM: Laura K. Nelson, M.D.
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SUBJECT: POLICY CLARIFICATION: Special Assistance for Persons Determined to Have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI)

DATE: July 5, 2012

This memorandum is intended to clarify the responsibilities of Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (T/RBHAs) and T/RBHA providers in meeting the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services’ (ADHS/DBHS) expectations regarding requirements in the following ADHS/DBHS policies:

- Policy and Procedures Manual GA 3.4, Special Assistance for Persons Determined to Have a Serious Mental Illness
- Provider Manual Section 5.4, Special Assistance for Persons Determined to Have a Serious Mental Illness

Policy and Procedure Manual GA 3.4 and Provider Manual Section 5.4, Special Assistance for Persons Determined to Have a Serious Mental Illness, describe ADHS/DBHS’ expectations for T/RBHAs, T/RBHA providers, the Arizona State Hospital and other behavioral health agencies with respect to Special Assistance. This memorandum is intended to clarify the expectation surrounding assessing individuals determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and, if determined to be in need of Special Assistance, the expectation to ensure involvement of the person providing Special Assistance.

Policy and Procedures Manual GA 3.4 ( subsections F.3, G.1.e & f, G.2.a & b) and Provider Manual Section 5.4 ( subsections 5.4.7-C and 5.4.8-C), as currently written, have different requirements for individuals based on Title XIX/XXI status, with less stringent requirements for non-Title XIX/XXI individuals. The different requirements were in effect during the time period in which case management services were not available to non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have a SMI. The partial restoration of certain services, including case management services, to non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have a SMI beginning July 1, 2012, eliminates the need for different requirements.

Effective July 1, 2012, T/RBHAs and T/RBHA providers must apply the Special Assistance requirements under Policy and Procedures Manual GA 3.4 and Provider Manual Section 5.4 to Title-XIX/XXI persons to both Title XIX/XXI and non-Title XIX/XXI persons determined to have a SMI with respect to the subsections noted above that address 1) assessing for need for Special Assistance, and 2) ensuring involvement of the individual providing Special Assistance.

Questions regarding this clarification may be directed to the ADHS/DBHS Policy Office at (602) 364-4656.