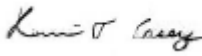
	<h1 style="margin: 0;">MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA · DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE</p>	
	Date of Issue: November 25, 2003	Effective Date: Immediately
SUBJECT: Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities In the Community Mental Retardation Program		BY:  Kevin T. Casey Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation

SCOPE:

County MH/MR Administrators
 County MR Directors
 Base Service Unit Directors
 Vocational Facility Directors
 Adult Training Facility Directors

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide information regarding Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) to County MH/MR Programs and other agencies responsible for employment related supports through the community mental retardation program, particularly services funded under the Office of Mental Retardation's Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers.

BACKGROUND:

MAWD provides health care coverage to workers with disabilities. MAWD encourages persons with disabilities to work and enjoy the financial benefits of being employed. Under MAWD, individuals with disabilities can receive Medicaid Assistance, while working, even when their earnings increase above the limits for other Medicaid Programs. MAWD recipients pay a monthly premium based upon five percent of their countable monthly income.

MAWD coverage became available in Pennsylvania effective January 2002. Individuals apply for MAWD through the County Assistance Office (CAO) and may contact their CAO caseworker or the Department of Public Welfare hotline at 800-692-7462 for more information. TTY/TTD users can call 800-451-5886.

HCBS waivers provide an array of services and supports that qualifying individuals with disabilities need to live in their homes and communities. OMR has approved Medicaid Waivers through County MH/MR programs since 1983. MAWD eligibility for Waiver recipients, which became effective on October 28, 2003, is expected to promote self-determination of individuals receiving waiver services by enhancing their ability to retain earned income and assets while keeping their eligibility for waiver and other Medicaid funded services and supports.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
Regional Program Office of Mental Retardation

DISCUSSION:

The attached Operations Memorandum – Medicaid OPS031010, subject: **Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) and Waivers**, is effective October 28, 2003. The Operations Memorandum contains information, procedures and forms for County Assistance Offices, State Program Offices, and their designees to use in the determination and maintenance of MAWD eligibility for waiver recipients.

Included in the OPS memo is an attachment entitled: Policy Criteria Comparison Chart, which provides a concise overview of the Medical Assistance benefits available under MAWD for waiver recipients and non-waiver recipients. This information is useful for waiver and non-waiver funded recipients in the community mental retardation program. Since procedures for

determining MAWD eligibility for non-waiver recipients are not specifically covered in this bulletin, County MH/MR Programs are encouraged to contact their County Assistance Office for any alterations that may be required for nonwaiver funded individuals.

County MH/MR Programs have certain MAWD related responsibilities for individuals in the Consolidated and Person Family Directed Supports Waiver, as well as individuals enrolled in the community mental retardation program who are not receiving waiver funded support. The County MH/MR Program is responsible to:

- community mental retardation service applicants and recipients who are or expected to be employed, about their right to apply for MAWD and the benefits of the MAWD option for people who work. This includes both waiver and nonwaiver funded individuals.
- Adjust waiver and other registration and individual planning and budget practices as necessary to accommodate MAWD referral and determination procedures indicated in Operations Memorandum-Medicaid OPS031010.
- Disseminate MAWD information such as brochures and promotional material made available by State agencies for local stakeholders, including individuals receiving services and their families.
- Advise local stakeholders when training on MAWD and Waivers, as well as other work incentives, is available in their area.
- Advise their Regional Office regarding outstanding MAWD related issues for waiver and non-waiver recipients that cannot be addressed at the County administrative level.
- In coordination with OVR District Offices and other area agencies, continue to promote employment for individuals in the community program who choose work through the use of MAWD and other work incentives.

Attachment: Operations Memorandum – Medicaid OPS031010