

## Reduction of Lag Time Initiative

There is currently a 4-6 week span of time from date a client is authorized to the begin date of the behavioral health plan. OMHSAS proposed a change to this procedure, and after many months of discussion, planning and testing, the lag time has been reduced. Effective 1/1/2005, behavioral health plan enrollment will take place on the **system date**, the date the authorization is entered into the Client Information System (CIS). This shortens the amount of time that the client is covered by Fee-for-Service (FFS). In addition to this change, the logic has also been revised to prohibit the unnecessary closing and reopening of the behavioral health plan when a recipient chooses a different Physical Health MCO.

These changes apply to all Medicaid managed care-eligible cases being authorized in all HealthChoices counties on or after 1/1/2005. Procedures for Expedited Enrollment and Provider Submitted Applications thru COMPASS remain in effect.

### Example of Lag Reduction:

Client applies for Medicaid benefits in a HealthChoices county, and a Common Application Form is received in the County Assistance Office on 1/3/2005. Client completes all eligibility requirements and is determined to be eligible for Medicaid and managed care. Authorization is entered into CIS on 1/23/2005. Medicaid eligibility begins 1/3/2005. Begin date for behavioral health plan is 1/23/2005. Begin date under the procedure in place prior to 1/1/2005 would have been 3/01/2005.

### Example of Behavioral Health Plan remaining unchanged when Physical Health plan changes:

Client is auto assigned to one particular Physical Health plan. They decide that they prefer another Physical Health plan. The first PH plan is ended, and the new plan begins. There is no change to the Behavioral Health plan. Under the previous plan, the Behavioral health plan would have been closed and reopened using the same end and begin dates as the Physical Health plan change, even though the Behavioral Health plan code would have remained the same.