

# MaineCare Update

Informational Letter: 44

**Policy Code: DIC**

TO: Superintendents, Special Education Directors, Regional CDS sites, Special Purpose Private Schools, and CDS Approved Providers

FROM: Angela Faherty, Ph.D., Commissioner

DATE: October 29, 2010

RE: MaineCare Update: 1) Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) Training; 2) Module 1 Training for Provisional certification; 3) Data Needed by Department of Health and Human Services

## *1. Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) Training – Schedule Posting*

On Monday, November 1, 2010 the Behavioral Health Sciences Institute will post a schedule for Train the Trainer programs for both Section 65 and Section 28 policies of MaineCare. Trainings will be held in Caribou, Rockland, Farmington and Portland starting in January, 2011. There is no cost for public schools and CDS sites to send their staff to become certified as BHP trainers.

Travel expenses and any overnight accommodations must be covered by the SAU and CDS sites.

In order to qualify for this training, staff must meet the following qualifications:

Bachelors degree

Experience providing staff development

A letter of recommendation from his/her supervisor.

## *2. Module 1 Training for Provisional Certification*

Section 65 of MaineCare policy for School-Based Behavioral Health Day Treatment indicates that for newly hired staff who were not providing day treatment services last year under Section 41, there is a new requirement of 90 college credit hours. Provisional approval is available under the policy.

The policy further states:

**Effective  
9/28/2010**

**65.06-13.C. Provisional Approval of Providers of Behavioral Health Day Treatment:**

**All staff must begin receiving the Behavioral Health Professional training within thirty (30) days from the date of hire. The provisional candidate must complete the training and obtain certification within one (1) year from the date of hire or by September 28, 2011, whichever is later.**

**Approvals must be maintained in the agency's personnel file and the length of provisional status documented in the employee's file. Provisional candidates who have not completed certification requirements within one (1) year from the date of hire are not eligible to perform reimbursable services with any provider until certification is complete.**

Beginning Monday, November 1, 2010 staff with 90 college credit hours who have been newly hired in the FY11 school year who are providing Behavioral Health Services may register for Module 1 training; once completed, schools that have provisionally certified staff will be in compliance with DHHS MaineCare regulations and will be able to bill MaineCare-eligible students under Section 65.

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For staff who were providing day treatment services under Section 41 last year, the

**Education Technician IIIs under the revised Section 65 will have until September 28, 2011 to become BHP-certified through the trained trainer model.**

**A new provision, Section 28 of MaineCare policy for Rehabilitative and Community Support Services for Children with Cognitive Impairments and Functional Limitations, has the following Staff Requirements:**

“A. Qualification Requirements for Direct Care Staff:

1. Direct care staff must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent;
- All direct care staff must obtain a Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) certification within one (1) year of hire.” Or for school programs by September 28, 2011, whichever is later.

*3. Data Needed by Department of Health and Human Services*

The Department of Health and Human Services has requested that the Department of Education gather data on the number of newly hired or reassigned staff that will need the Behavioral Health Professional (BHP) training. In order to allow school administrative units to begin billing under either the Section 28 or Section 65 MaineCare policies while the training is underway, the Department will give the staff “Deemed Status”. **Please email, by November 5, 2010, Jaci Holmes, Federal State Legislative Liaison at [jaci.holmes@maine.gov](mailto:jaci.holmes@maine.gov) with the number of newly hired or reassigned staff that will need this training.**

Thank you for your cooperation in this joint effort.