DATE: August 1, 2008       TRANSMITTAL: C – 08-08-0011

TO: ACCESS Florida Operations Managers
    ACCESS Florida Program Offices

FROM: Nathan Lewis Chief, Program Policy       (Signature on File)

SUBJECT: Child in Care-Medicaid Expansion for Certain Young Adults Who Were Adopted or Placed with Dependency Guardians

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Receipt

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify policy stated in Transmittals P-06-07-0009 and P-07-08-0009, relating to Medicaid Expansion for Youth Exiting Foster Care, by adding a group of young adults previously omitted. Please provide this memorandum to all staff with responsibilities in Medicaid eligibility for Children in Care (CIC).

Background

On June 15, 2007, Governor Crist signed into law Senate Bill 2114, which in part amended 409.903 of the Florida Statutes effective July 1, 2007 to extend Medicaid coverage for certain young adults. Prior to that, House Bill 7173 extended the age of Medicaid eligibility until 21 for these youth, effective July 1, 2006. Information communicated to staff indicated this extension in coverage applied only to young adults exiting Foster Care. It was the Legislative intent to also include young adults leaving foster care after turning age 16 for adoption, and those who had been placed with a court-approved dependency guardian.

Policy for Extending Medicaid for Certain Young Adults Until Age 21

The law extends Medicaid coverage to the individuals listed below:

- Young adults exiting foster care at the age of 18.
- Young adults who have been adopted from foster care after age 16 who have spent a minimum of six months in foster care within the twelve months immediately preceding adoption.
- Young adults who have been placed with a court-approved dependency guardian, who have spent a minimum of six months in foster care within the twelve months immediately preceding the placement.
When a young adult meets these criteria, CIC staff will continue their Medicaid eligibility until age 21 without additional contact from Family Safety/Community-Based Care (FS/CBC) staff.

If FS/CBC staff become aware of a change in circumstances that may end the youth’s eligibility, they should inform CIC staff.

**Note:** Eligibility for Medicaid will continue through the young adult’s birth month, unless born on the first day of the month. If the adopted youth was born on the first of the month, then eligibility ceases effective the month the youth turns 21 years old.

**Implementation**

We apologize but, due to a misunderstanding, the policy regarding the young adults adopted from foster care and the young adults placed with a court-approved dependency guardian were not included in the information communicated to staff.

A report will be provided to each circuit/region with a list of the young adults in adoption Medicaid categories closed because of age after July 1, 2006. The report contains enough information to locate the young adult in FLORIDA and re-open the case when necessary. If it is necessary to communicate with FS/CBC staff for additional information, please do so using established procedures.

When the youth is eligible based on the criteria listed in this memorandum, re-open the case (ongoing) as closed in error, and continue the Medicaid until they are 21 unless notified by FS/CBC staff the youth is no longer eligible. When CIC staff are made aware of medical bills for eligible youths for any time period following July 1, 2006, create coverage for that time period following established procedures.

If Regional or Circuit Program staff have CIC program related questions, please contact Faye Franklin at (850) 414-5669.

**cc:** Program Policy (Florence Love, Eileen Schilling, Jena Grignon)  
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