



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

Milwaukee County

LISA JO MARKS • Interim Director
JOHN CHIANELLI • Division Administrator

October 21, 2009

From: Walter Laux, Director, Adult Community Services Branch

To: Executive Directors in the WIsler Choice Provider Network

Re: Milwaukee County's TANF Application

TANF is a specialized grant that uses state revenues to fund AODA treatment and recovery support services, as well as other activities necessary to administer the program. The TANF grant is a major funding source for the Milwaukee County public sector AODA treatment system known as WIsler Choice, accounting for more than 25% of the funding available in 2009. The State has indicated that they will release a competitive application for the TANF CY 2010 allocation. It is Milwaukee County's intent to apply for these funds. **Please note that if an agency competes against Milwaukee County and is awarded TANF funds directly from the State, then Milwaukee County will no longer be able to refer any potentially TANF eligible individuals to said agency.**

Due to the competitive application process, Milwaukee County requires a one-page signed letter of commitment from each WIsler Choice provider, both ancillary and treatment, on the agency letterhead or stationary stating that your agency fully supports Milwaukee County's TANF application and that you are prepared to provide services to TANF eligible clients referred by Milwaukee County. The services you provide to WIsler Choice clients should be specified on the letter. The original letter must be submitted no later than **close of business on Friday, November 20** and addressed to:

Walter Laux
Director, Adult Community Services Branch
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
9201 Watertown Plank Road
Milwaukee, WI 53226

The TANF grant addresses the special needs of TANF eligible individuals that includes parenting education, vocational assistance, housing assistance, coordination with other community programs, treatment via a continuum of care, trauma identification and resolution and screening for fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. The WIsler Choice system is predicated on the same goals as the TANF grant and **therefore every provider, knowingly or unknowingly, serves TANF eligible individuals. Approximately 50% of all referrals originating from the Central Intake Units are potentially TANF eligible individuals.**

Since TANF comprises such a major role within the overall Milwaukee County system, **providers receive a substantial portion of their funding from TANF** for both male and female clients. Prior to WIsler Choice, TANF funded only a limited number of providers serving a limited number of people. Your letter of commitment will allow Milwaukee County to continue to leverage TANF funds with other fund sources to maximize the number of people served in our community and for your agency to continue receiving TANF eligible individuals referred by WIsler Choice.

Thank you for your support.