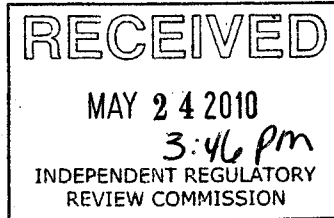


#14-518-4
Helping others reach toward a better life.....

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2833

May 18, 2010



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Edward J. Zogby, Director
Bureau of Policy
4th Floor, Health and Welfare Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Zogby:

This letter is in reference to the Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) proposed regulations titled, "Revisions to the Special Allowance for Supportive Services Requirements (# 14-518). Berks Counseling Center (BCC) appreciates the opportunity to present our comments.

These regulations are needed to bring greater accountability to this important program while ensuring that these very important supports remain available for those who need them to be able to move from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), General Assistance (GA), and SNAP into employment.

Government in all segments is trying to increase the accountability of its programs and services. These proposed regulations bring increased integrity to areas where DPW has faced criticism for previously having had accountability deficiencies.

These regulations ensure that this program will be able to serve the greatest number of people with the limited resources available. While some may be concerned that limits on transportation and work-related expenses will cause hardship in some participants, BCC agrees that this concern is outweighed by the opportunity to sustain the program for additional participants.

Finally, the changes do increase some program benefits for the participants, specifically the mileage rate for a private vehicle and the motor vehicle purchase amount. BCC agrees with these increases as they more accurately reflect the costs to the program participant.

BCC supports DPW's "Revisions to the Special Allowance for Supportive Service Requirements" proposed regulations. We acknowledge these regulations seek to correct deficiencies in the current program and regulations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and take BCC's letter under consideration.

Sincerely,

Frances Malley
Executive Director