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**GENERAL RELIEF
MANDATORY SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY PROGRAM
FACT SHEET**

On June 3, 1997, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance requiring adult (18 and older) General Relief (GR) applicants/participants to undergo screening for Substance Use Disorder (SUD), if there is reasonable suspicion that the individual may have an alcohol or other drug (AOD) problem. The Board further required that anyone screened, professionally evaluated, and determined to be in need of treatment services must participate in a program as a condition of receiving GR.

Based on the Board's action, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Department of Public Health – Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) developed the Mandatory Substance Abuse Recovery Program (MSARP) designed to assist GR applicants/participants with SUD problems recover from their chemical dependency. MSARP was implemented on November 1, 1997.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a DPSS condition of eligibility, all adult who appear eligible to GR are pre-screened to determine if there is a reasonable suspicion of an AOD problem. The determination is based on the applicant's self-declaration, observable behaviors/appearances, and other information provided. If a reasonable suspicion is established at the pre-screening, the applicant is referred to a DPH-SAPC contracted Community Assessment Service Center (CASC) for professional evaluation and urinalysis screening/referral for treatment, as appropriate.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- For negative pre-screening results, no further action is required with respect to MSARP.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES (Continued)

- Applicants enrolled in a treatment program at the time of application are referred to the CASC for assessment. This process ensures appropriateness of the treatment at the State AOD licensed/certified facilities. If not appropriate, the CASC will refer the applicants to another treatment program.
- Participants in MSARP remain eligible for GR and are subject to time limits if employable. Employability status is a separate determination from an AOD.
- Participants are eligible to receive up to six months plus an additional three month extension of consecutive MSARP treatment services, without regard to employability status and remaining time on aid.
- Participants in MSARP treatment who are terminated from GR due to time limits, may continue to receive treatment (outpatient or residential) for up to a maximum of nine months. To be eligible for ongoing treatment, the participant must have entered treatment while still on GR.
- CASC will administer the Urine Analysis (UA) for participants who contest a positive assessment evaluation result. Aid may not be approved pending the results of the UA.
- GR MSARP participants may receive transportation for the duration of treatment.
- When the assessment is completed, CASC will enter the participant information to the Los Angeles Eligibility, Automated Determination, Evaluation and Reporting (LEADER) System. GR is approved, regardless of the outcome of assessment.
- Participants previously pre-screened as negative, but later identified with a potential SUD problem may be referred to MSARP.
- If a participant relapses after nine months of consecutive treatment, the participant is allowed to re-enter a treatment program.

DPH-SAPC has contracts with 50 GR providers with multiple sites. This includes the CASC, which is composed of eight lead contracted community-based organizations located throughout the Los Angeles County's eight Service Planning Areas. There are currently nineteen Service Center sites located throughout Los Angeles County.

CASE MANAGEMENT

The MSARP process was automated in LEADER. Effective January 1, 2011, LEADER was enhanced to track GR participants' enrollment and participation in the MSARP. These enhancements facilitate the enforcement of compliance with MSARP requirements, and the communication among DPSS and CASC staff.

- DPH-SAPC – Case Managers in CASC provide SUD screenings, assessments and process referrals to treatment.
- DPSS - MSARP Case Managers are available in each GR District Office to liaison with CASC Case Managers and to intervene, as needed, in individual case situations.

NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES/SANCTIONS

Effective March 1, 2014, GR noncompliance not given Good Cause must be classified as either Willful or Negligent. A GR participant may be terminated and sanctioned for a single instance of Willful failure or three instances of negligent failure. When a Hearing Officer determines that it is a first or second negligent act, aid is not terminated and no sanction is applied.

MSARP termination/sanction will be applied accordingly based on the negligence or willful failure of MSARP noncompliance.

Willful Noncompliance		Negligent Noncompliance	
Act of Noncompliance	Penalty	Act of Noncompliance	Penalty
First	0 – Day Sanction	First Two	No Sanction
Second	30 – Day Sanction	Third	0 – Day Sanction
Third and All Subsequent	60 – Day Sanction	Second Three	30 – Day Sanction
		Third Three and All Subsequent	60 – Day Sanction

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