June 8, 2006

Dear Medicaid Provider:

This letter is to clarify Medicaid policy located in the Medical Foster Care Services (MFC) Coverage and Limitations Handbook.

According to the October 2003, MFC Coverage and Limitations Handbook, a Medical Foster Care parent may not be otherwise employed while an MFC child is assigned to them. There has been much discussion of this particular requirement between Medicaid and Children’s Medical Services (CMS). Beginning June 1, 2006, MFC parents may be gainfully employed outside the home when the MFC child that is assigned to them is approved by the MFC Team for placement in their home. However, it is especially important to note that Medicaid will not reimburse for other support services while the MFC parent is considered on work-time. Support services include private duty nursing (PDN), personal care (PC), and Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) centers.

The policy regarding support services and MFC homes also requires clarification. MFC providers are responsible for the overall care of the children assigned to them. The MFC staff, which consists of a registered nurse specialist, a social work specialist, and a physician, supervises and provides child-specific training to MFC parents. When a child has medically necessary needs that cannot be met by the MFC parent who is trained in their care, the child may receive PDN or PC services. The use of these support services in the MFC home is intended to meet medical needs of the child that cannot be met by the MFC parent. Support services will be reimbursed by Medicaid for the following:

- A child requires an intervention that is too complex to be provided by the MFC provider;
- A child’s medical condition requires an awake caregiver at night to provide continuous or frequent intervention (usually limited to 8 hours per night);
- The MFC parent must attend classes to remain current for their CMS certification (PPEC services may be reimbursed if appropriate); or
- The MFC parent becomes unable to care for a child on a temporary basis due to illness or injury (usually less than 30 days, and PPEC services may be reimbursed if appropriate).

This change will be reflected in the Medicaid MFC Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook update to be released soon. Thank you for the services you provide to the children of Florida.

Sincerely

Thomas W. Arnold
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid

TWA/kc