

Questions & Answers: September 17, 2026

Thursday Connections with SUD at DHS Meeting

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUND (BHF) ELIGIBILITY & NOTIFICATIONS

Q: Does the exclusion for Alcohol Use Disorder or SUD Treatment program include outpatient treatment?

A: Individuals who are in our adult without children eligibility category and are receiving alcohol use disorder or substance use disorder treatment are excluded from work requirements. Individuals may also meet the medically frail exclusion if they have a substance use disorder. We are planning to provide additional information soon to enrollees, communities and providers about how enrollees could identify if they fit within one of these categories. In the meantime, the following resources were also shared in the chat:

- [Federal Medicaid Changes / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#)
- [Tools for Partners / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#)

Q: If outpatient is not eligible for the exclusion, will this affect eligibility for BHF? Many will likely have to go that route.

Also raised in chat: "I've been wondering about that, and if there is a plan to increase BHF funding or if money will run out."

A: While these two topics interact, whether the exclusion applies to outpatient SUD will not directly impact BHF eligibility. Those with Active MA are not eligible for BHF. If an individual no longer has MA, they may be eligible for BHF if they meet all other BHF eligibility criteria. More info on BHF eligibility here: [Behavioral Health Fund Eligibility / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#).

Q: Do we have a comprehensive list of county and tribal contacts for providers to coordinate living arrangement updates for incarcerated individuals with BHF funding?

A: Yes, an existing list of county and tribal contacts is available online ([County and Tribal Nation offices / Minnesota Department of Human Services](#)) though it is not necessarily the same list DHS is currently working from internally. DHS is hopeful to have a comprehensive, updated list completed soon and will share it out, at minimum with the contacts already on that list, and is looking into options to share it more widely after that.

Also shared in the chat: American.Indian.Team.DHS@state.mn.us; and the [Mino Bimaadiziwin-Wiichózani \(Mino\) Section 1115 Waiver Application](#).

Q: Have recertifications started? I'm guessing that explains the numbers being higher.

A: Yes, DHS has been receiving requests for subsequent eligibility spans. Providers with previous BHF eligibility can theoretically apply up to six times during a calendar year, since eligibility spans are now 60 days long rather than a full year. This is expected to be a contributing factor to the higher application numbers, since spans that used to last a full year now last only 60 days.

Q: Will you be adding a box for the client's PMI on the approval notices when they are sent out?

A: Yes, DHS confirmed a box for the client's PMI number will be added to the approval notices.

Q: We got 70+ notifications from DHS on Friday — is that one of the new delivery options? That large of a batch is very challenging to process all at once; we'd really appreciate them being more spread out.

A: DHS is working to identify the most effective means for communication with CFRs. We will be trialing a few mechanisms for this over the coming weeks with the hopes to incorporate all feedback on this topic.

Q: Hennepin County has received zero notices from DHS this week; why? Why can't we get daily notices?

A: DHS is working to identify the most effective means for communication with CFRs. We will be trialing a few mechanisms for this over the coming weeks with the hopes to incorporate all feedback on this topic.

Q: What about the audit process for incarcerated individuals? Sometimes the client has been released into the community prior to the audit request being received by the provider listed. How do we help ensure the client is not barred from future funding simply because we could not notify them before the 60 days elapsed?

A: Clients can complete the income and household verification ("audit") even after the 60 days has elapsed and would need to complete it before DHS reviews a future application requesting a new span.

SUD TREATMENT SERVICES / BILLING & GENERAL RESOURCES

Q: I contacted the payer and then emailed DHS and received no response.

A: If you're running into MCO payment issues, start with the payer directly to confirm billing procedures and codes. If that doesn't resolve the issue, escalate to the DHS MCO Liaison (dhs_bhd_mco@state.mn.us) or the SUD Policy and Reform team (sud.direct.access.dhs@state.mn.us). It's helpful to come prepared with documentation including dates, contacts, ticket numbers and denial reasons since the more documentation provided, the faster DHS can help.

Reminder shared in chat:

An FAQ document for SUD treatment services and outpatient billing changes was developed and will be posted soon on both the [SUD Reform](#) page and the [Thursday Connections with SUD at DHS](#) page.