**FoodShare Handbook Release 24-01**

Presented By: Janice Pfeiffer

Effective Date: April 3, 2024

The following are policy additions or changes to the FoodShare Handbook.

* **Applications** 3.20.1.5**:** Added information about when a drug test is inconclusive. The person must retake the test until they receive a passing or failing result. If the member does not retake the test, they must be determined ineligible for not agreeing to take a drug test. The person must be given an adequate amount of time to reschedule, retake, and receive the results of any additional drug tests. This may require a verification due date extension.
* **Designated Representatives** 3.22.1 - New Section: A FoodShare applicant or household may appoint a designated representative to assist them or act on their behalf. That representative is responsible for providing complete and correct information. A valid designated representative can complete the same action as an adult FoodShare member including, but not limited to signing an applications, renewal, or six-month report form (SMRF), reporting changes, or discussing case details with the local agency. (There are several representative types.)

**FoodShare Gatepost Page Reactivation:**

Present by Janice Pfeiffer

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* Out-of-State FS Question – the FS gatepost page question, ‘Has anyone in the FoodShare household between the ages of 18 to 52 received SNAP benefits from another state during or after April 2024’ is enabled. See Process Help 71.6 Out-of-State Benefits details steps worker must take if an applicant or member answers ‘Yes’ to this question.

**OPS Memo 24-06**

Presented by Erin Heiman

**Subject:** Discontinued Requirements for BadgerCare Plus Childless Adults

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As of January 1, 2024, childless adults will no longer have to pay premiums; won’t be required to answer treatment needs questions; and won’t be able to complete a health survey.

**BadgerCare+ Eligibility Handbook Release 24-01**

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* **Pregnant Children** 8.1 New Section: When a pregnancy is reported for a child under age 19 on a case, they will have continuous coverage through at least the end of the postpartum period or the end of their 12-month continuous coverage period, whichever is later.
* **Strike Benefits** 16.5.28 New Section: Count benefits paid by a union, such as strike or lockout benefits, as income.

**Medicaid Eligibility Handbook Release 24-01**

Presented by Erin Heiman

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**Signature From Representatives** (MEH 2.5.1.1 and BC+ 25.5.1.1)

* Change to who can sign an application of an incapacitated or incompetent adult.
* Guardian
* Conservator
* Authorized Representative
* Agent with Durable Power of Attorney of Finances
* A superintendent of a state mental institute or center for developmentally disabled
* A warden or warden’s designee – for an inmate of a correctional institution who is a hospital inpatient for more than 24 hours.
* The superintendent of a county psychiatric institution

**OPS Memo 24-07**

Presented by Erin Heiman

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Effective immediately, only the following persons or entities can sign Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus applications and renewals on behalf of incompetent or incapacitated adults:

* An authorized representative, as defined in the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook Section 22.5.1 Authorized Representatives and the BadgerCare Plus Handbook Section 34.1 Authorized Representatives.
* An agent with durable power of attorney for finances.
* The following court appointees:
* Guardian of the estate
* Guardian of the person and the estate
* Guardian of the person to whom the court has explicitly granted the authority to enroll their ward in public assistance programs.
* Conservator
* A superintendent of a state mental health institute or center for the developmentally disabled.
* A warden or warden's designee for an inmate of a state correctional institution who is a hospital inpatient for more than 24 hours.
* The superintendent of a county psychiatric institution to whom the county social or human services director has delegated the authority to sign and witness applications for residents of the institution.

\*\*The agency can no longer accept signatures from someone “acting responsibly” for an incapacitated person (such as a hospital employee). The legal position is that people who are incapacitated have rights, and just because they are incapacitated does not mean that someone without appropriate financial authority can make financial decisions for them.

If someone is calling to apply on behalf of someone else and claim they are durable power of attorney for finances…we can still do the RFA (set the filing date) and pend for the legal paperwork.