DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Questions & Answers: October 15, 2026

Thursday Connections with SUD at DHS Meeting

1115 REENTRY DEMONSTRATION / CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CAA)

Q1. Will the juvenile requirements be implemented at pilot sites first, like the adult 1115 Reentry Demonstration, or at all public facility sites?

A: Great question. The juvenile requirements under the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) are a statewide requirement and are not limited to pilot sites. The CAA and the 1115 Reentry Demonstration come from different federal authorities: the 1115 Reentry Demonstration applies only at participating pilot sites (Red Lake Detention Center; Stearns, Wright, Hennepin and Scott County jails; and MCF-Shakopee, MCF-Stillwater and MCF-Faribault), while CAA Section 5121 requires states to provide screening and transition-related services to eligible justice-involved youth. The two efforts complement each other but are not interchangeable. Questions can be sent to reentry.demonstration.dhs@state.mn.us.

▶ *Presentation Reference: Slides 27-28 (Consolidated Appropriations Act / CAA vs. 1115 Waiver) and Slide 38 (Pilot Sites)*

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUND (BHF) ELIGIBILITY

Q2. Our organization has over 20 BHF applications for incarcerated individuals awaiting living arrangement updates at any given time, which causes significant payment delays. When will there be a comprehensive list of county contacts so providers can follow up on this step? More clarity is also needed on which county or tribe of financial responsibility will update the living arrangement for incarcerated clients. Providers are seeing long email chains between DHS, counties and tribes about who will make the update while payment for services already rendered is pending.

A: DHS is not releasing a full list of county and tribal contacts at this time. Counties and tribes update their contact people often, and a published list would quickly become outdated and could spread incorrect information. Instead, DHS now uses a single workflow: the eligibility determination and all notices go out together, currently about 7 business days after the application is submitted. The notice email goes to the applicant (if they provided an email), the county or tribe of financial responsibility (CFR), and any secondary contacts listed on the application. Starting this month, DHS also sends notice to the MA-holding agency when the applicant is approved for BHF and incarcerated (needing a living arrangement update). This lets the CFR and the MA-holding Tribe or county know about each other, see whether the application was approved or denied, and see any living arrangement or third-party liability updates that need to be made in MMIS. The goal is that providers and the CFR will no longer be the primary source of information about living arrangement and third-party liability update needs – as this information will be coming directly from DHS. Providers should ask clients to list them as secondary contact on the application so they receive the notice too.

Q3. Can counties create a general email address that providers can use for this purpose?

A: Tribes and counties have been encouraged to create a general email for communication related to BHF. For help with a specific case, contact DHS.BHF@state.mn.us.

Q4. What about the increased delays in this process? We are not seeing living arrangements updated as quickly as before, when we could go directly to the county.

A: The responsibility to update Living Arrangement codes has not changed – this is a duty of the MA-holding agency. Providers are still welcome to contact the Tribe or county directly to inform of living arrangement update needs.

Comment. Providers shared that if DHS cannot keep a list of county contacts current because they change so often, it is even harder for individuals and providers to find a helpful county contact. Participants suggested that each county create a dedicated email for this purpose and decide which staff monitor and respond.
A: Thank you for this feedback. It has been noted and shared with the BHF Eligibility team.