

**Western Highlands Network
Communication Bulletin # 38
June 6, 2006**

**Clarification of Service Authorizations for
Individuals with Out of County Medicaid**

Western Highlands will authorize services for consumers who have Medicaid from outside the 8-county catchment area.

Exceptions to this rule include the following:

- Western Highlands will not authorize services for a child /adolescent placed in one of Western Highlands eight counties in foster care or other non-permanent placement.
- Western Highlands will not authorize services for children who are in custody of a DSS outside of our 8-county catchment area.
- Western Highlands will not authorize services for consumers from any of the five counties of the Piedmont Behavioral Health Care catchment area (Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly, and Union Counties).

In these cases, authorization of services must come from the LME where the consumer's Medicaid is registered. Access will direct authorization requests back to the LME where the Medicaid resides.

If a consumer has relocated to one of the eight Western Highlands Counties and has not transferred Medicaid, Western Highlands will authorize services and urge the consumer or family to transfer Medicaid registration to the county where the consumer resides.

Please Note:

In the Friday e-mail distributed on 4/21/06, an exception to the Medicaid authorization process for out of county consumers was inadvertently omitted.

Clarification: In the event that a consumer is in our 8-county area expressly for the purpose of receiving treatment from your array of services, and is in the custody of a DSS other than the eight Western Highlands Counties (Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Buncombe, Rutherford, Polk, Henderson, Transylvania), we will not issue Medicaid authorizations. We are also unable to support the care of those consumers with state funds. In these situations, it is imperative that the LME associated with the county DSS involved provides care for the mental health needs of these consumers.