FYI

EBT Farmers' Market Pilot in New Bedford, Massachusetts

Farmers' markets generally have found it difficult to use EBT because they are not equipped for debit card transactions. Debit card systems require telephone and power service to operate Point of Sale (POS) terminals, and very few farmers' markets in Massachusetts have telephone and/or electric service available to their vendors.

The Federation of Massachusetts Farmers' Markets (FMFM), the Department of Transitional Assistance and the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture received approval to pilot an EBT system at the Clasky Common Market. This market will be open every Sunday from July 12, 2003 through October 25, 2003 on Pleasant Street in Clasky Park, New Bedford. Instead of individual POS terminals, there will be a single, wired POS terminal from which the market manager will sell scrip (coupons) in $2.50 denominations to EBT customers.

Scrip will be accepted for food sales at the Clasky Common Market throughout posted market days and hours for the 2003 market season. The scrip may be used to purchase only food items

FYI

Narratives Tab

Prior to the implementation of BEACON, the c•ase narrative was an effective tool in capturing details concerning pertinent case activity. Case narratives were essential in assisting other AU Managers, Supervisors and TAO Managers in understanding the circumstances of a family's situation.

Currently, the Narratives tab is being underutilized by many AU Managers. This has made it difficult for other TAOs and Department units to learn specific, detailed information about AU situations not otherwise captured in BEACON.

The Narratives tab should provide a cumulative record of all contacts/actions regarding a particular AU; therefore, staff are requested to comment in the Narratives tab each time a contact/action is made with regard to an AU. Entries need not be extensive, but should adequately describe the action taken. Remember that all information saved in BEACON, including written text in the narrative, becomes a permanent part of the BEACON record.

The Narratives tab is accessed through the Eligibility Explorer window and is used to enter additional information about any assessed person or AU that is not collected on previous windows contained within the Interview Explorer.

To add a narrative:

- Click on the Client dropdown box and select the appropriate member of the AU;

- Enter the new narrative at the blinking cursor in the bottom window;

- Remember, review and edit the narrative as needed; and

- Click on the SAVE button and the new narrative will appear in the top window.

  (*Once saved, deletions to the narrative may not be performed, although further additions/clarifications may be made.*)

For more information on the Narratives tab, refer to *A User's Guide*, III-C-1 and the BEACON Help window entitled "Narratives Tab."