

Diversity - Events

The Diversity Event for September 15, 2007 - October 15, 2007 is entitled **National Hispanic Heritage Month**.

Training - PACE

A link to the Performance and Career Enhancement (PACE) log-in page appears on the Training home page.

The Job Aids option includes the following PACE related job aids:

- **Login and Set Up Your Profile;**
- **Enroll in a Course;**
- **PACE Fact Sheet; and**
- **PACE Roll Out Poster**

FYI

DMR/DMH Group Home Case Processing

When processing Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) and Department of Mental Health (DMH) group home applications, AU Managers must be aware that, as part of an agreement with DTA, DMR and DMH group home providers may claim 10% of a resident's shelter costs as payment toward a heat utility. This 10% is annotated on the *Other Agency Certification of Shelter Expenses for Licenced Group Home Residents* (FS-ACSE) form.

In some instances, however, the expense may not be claimed by the provider on the FS-ACSE. AU Managers must try to contact the authorized representative to determine if he or she failed to claim the 10% by mistake or did not wish to claim the expense because of a contractual agreement with another agency. A note should be made on the BEACON Narrative's Tab explaining how the matter was resolved.

AU Managers must also remember that, since food is provided to these group home individuals, the maximum coupon allotment for one person must be deducted from the net rent charged by the group home in accordance with 106 CMR 365.630 (B). Failure to deduct the maximum coupon allotment was the subject of a recent

Quality Control error.

Refer to Field Operations Memo 2004-41 for detailed procedures on the handling of group home cases.

FYI

Food Stamp Program: Increase in Federal Mileage Rate

Food stamp regulations at 106 CMR 364.400(C) allow elderly and/or disabled household members to deduct medical expenses in excess of \$35 per month. These expenses include "*the reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment or services.*" These regulations also allow dependent care expenses incurred for transportation to and from a dependent care site.

If a client claims mileage for transportation to and from medical appointments, or claims mileage for transportation to and from a dependent care site, the federal mileage rate of 48.5 cents per mile must be used to calculate the transportation cost that will be allowed for a medical deduction, or a dependent care deduction.