



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE**  
P.O. BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

**KEVIN T. CASEY**  
Deputy Secretary  
Office of Developmental Programs

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (717) 787-3700  
FAX: (717) 787-6583

January 23, 2009

. Dear Colleague:

This correspondence is being issued to provide clarification on the Office of Developmental Programs Policy Bulletin, *Agency With Choice Financial Management Services (AWC FMS)*, #00-08-08. The policy indicates, "Administrative Entities (AEs) without a current contract with an AWC FMS must effectuate a contract no later than July 1, 2008. AEs may join with other AEs to contract with a private entity to provide AWC FMS to people under the jurisdiction of multiple AEs. Pending successful negotiation of **a contract**, the AE must assist interested individuals in utilizing an AWC FMS under contract with another AE." The intention of this policy is that every AE would contract with **one** AWC FMS provider. Since the finalization of this policy bulletin there have been two concerns that have been brought to our attention regarding the above reference in the policy bulletin.

First, some AEs still do not have an AWC FMS contract in place, which is of much concern to ODP as this is a federal compliance and access issue. It has also been brought to our attention that some AEs who either do not have an AWC FMS provider in place or who only recently secured an AWC FMS provider are working on the establishment of more than one AWC FMS contract. ODP does not support AEs establishing contracts with more than one AWC FMS provider. AEs must secure and maintain one AWC FMS provider.

Second, some AEs who had more than one AWC FMS provider prior to July 1, 2008 requested clarification on ODP's position regarding multiple AWC FMS providers per AE. In response to this issue, ODP advised that those AEs who had multiple AWC FMS providers could maintain those providers as long as the AWC FMS providers were already in place and the providers meet the provider qualifications and ODP requirements outlined in the AWC FMS policy bulletin. If one of the AWC FMS providers were no longer interested in providing AWC services or if disqualified then that AE would not be permitted to replace the additional AWC FMS provider.

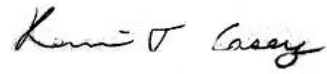
Please note that the AWC FMS service is an administrative service and is therefore not subject to free choice requirements. ODP must have statewide consistency related to administrative service offerings. Establishing more than one AWC FMS for each AE is not permitted at this time.

Colleague

-2-

If you have questions or concerns you can contact the appropriate Regional Program Manager. Thank you in advance for your attention and compliance to this clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin T. Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kevin T. Casey