Maryland and the ACF-812: Lessons Learned

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MD’s TANF Work Program

• Significant elements of the program include:
  – Universal Engagement
  – Full Family Sanction
  – Hardship exemptions from 60 month time limit
    • 20% cap on TANF-funded hardships has not been exceeded
  – Federal work participation requirements exceeded since implementation of DRA
  – Total job placements a key internal measure
MD TANF Reports

• TANF Data Report
  – Sample used for TANF, 3000+ cases annually
  – Provides Statewide Work Participation Rate, but not statistically valid at county level

• Performance Measures (county level)
  – Universal Engagement, Job Placements, all families work participation rate, time limits, “core caseload,” job retention and earnings gain reports

• “Life After Welfare” and other research
  – Produced under contract by the University of MD, Baltimore, Family Welfare Research & Training Group
## MD ACF-812 Results, Apr-Jun ‘11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Eligible Individuals (WEI)</th>
<th>551</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEI “countables”</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI, In “federal” activity but not counted: insufficient hours, insufficient verification or exceeded statutory limit</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI in activity not countable, but promotes self-sufficiency</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI disregarded, caring for child &lt;1 yr old</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI subject to sanction</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI exempt, illness or disability for self or family member</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI exempt, DV, ch. &lt;6 no ch. care or St. exemptions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEI, unengaged, relocating or “other”</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- State calculated Work Participation Rate for quarter: 45.6%
ACF-812 Revelations for MD?

• The large number of households with either temporary disabilities or caring for the disabled-15% of WEI
  – Temp, “caring for,” long term & SSI headed disabled households are 21% of total caseload
• MD ranks high nationally in March rpt for “0 hour” recipients and good cause assignments
• Variance between State engagement report and ACF-812
  – Job Search and sanctions have higher levels of engagement on ACF-812
  – All periods subject to sanctions in month appear on ACF-812
  – MD engagement report only lists “primary” activity, so job search as a supplemental activity or sanctions either cured early in month or imposed late in month are not listed
ACF-812 Confirmations of Existing Reports for MD?

• Significant number of WEI in “federal” activities but not meeting 30/20 hr reqs.

• A large number of “child under one” disregards
  – MD ranked 8th in disregards in ACF’s March report. OFA rules preclude MD from disregarding subject to sanction, so all disregards are ch <1

• Substance abuse treatment the most common “non-qualified activity”
Any Missed Opportunities?

• The ACF-812 provided details on work activities that will inform the TANF reauthorization debate on work participation, but....
  – TANF needs outcome oriented performance measures, such as job placement and job retention rates
  – The four monthly cohorts could have been tracked in a longitudinal report through 4th QTR FY 2011 to show activities over time of the engaged but not countable recipients