



## *Division of Behavioral Health Services*

### *Division of Compliance*

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**TO:** RBHA CEOs, TRBHA Directors and Benefit Specialists

**FROM:** Laura K. Nelson, M.D.  
Deputy Director

Margaret McLaughlin  
Bureau Chief of Policy

**SUBJECT:** **POLICY CLARIFICATION: SMI Eligibility Determination and Health-e-Arizona**

**DATE:** November 2, 2010

This memorandum is intended to clarify the responsibilities of Tribal and Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (T/RBHAs) and T/RBHA providers in meeting the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services' (ADHS/DBHS) expectations regarding requirements in the following ADHS/DBHS documents:

- [Assisting Behavioral Health Recipients with AHCCCS Eligibility Manual](#); and
- [Provider Manual Section 3.1, Eligibility Screening for AHCCCS Health Insurance, Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage and the Limited Income Subsidy Program.](#)

As previously stated in the ADHS/DBHS Policy Clarification Memorandum issued on May 4, 2010, ADHS/DBHS requires providers to utilize Health-e-Arizona to screen behavioral health recipients for potential eligibility and to prompt providers to assist potentially eligible persons with applying for AHCCCS coverage. For persons determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI), T/RBHA designees must ensure that documentation completed as part of the SMI eligibility determination process is submitted with other required documentation for Health-e-Arizona. Specifically, the SMI Determination addenda of the behavioral health assessment must be submitted. Applications submitted for persons determined to have SMI are processed by the AHCCCS SSI-MAO Unit, which categorizes an applicant as "SMI A" or "SMI B" using the functional criteria of the SMI Determination addendum (see the [Assisting Behavioral Health Recipients with AHCCCS Eligibility Manual](#) for details regarding these categories and the eligibility determination process for these categories). Please note that the submission of the SMI eligibility determination documentation as part of the AHCCCS application process is not a new requirement; however, this memorandum clarifies the expectation that SMI eligibility determination documentation is still required to be submitted as part of the Health-e-Arizona process.

Questions regarding this clarification may be directed to the ADHS/DBHS Policy Office at (602) 364-4670.