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MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2006

TO: Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc. Report Subscribers

FROM: Emily Heberlein, Senior Quality Analyst

RE: Does Race Matter? Report Series

The "Does Race Matter?" Report Series has been updated and re-posted to the AHCI web site (www.ahci.org). Some language in the reports on the involvement of children and youth with social services, specifically the Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) and the Juvenile Probation Office (JPO) has been clarified.

Upon further analysis since the reports were released in 2004-2005, we have learned that data used in the report to identify children and youth involved with CYF and JPO was not linked to a specific year (2002 or 2003 in our reports). Rather, the CYF and JPO data sources had provided a continually updated list of children and youth who have been involved with these systems over time since the HealthChoices program began. The updated reports now indicate that the findings relate to children and youth with a *history of involvement* with CYF and JPO, rather than specific involvement during the reporting year.

Three reports have been updated:

- Does Race Matter? A Summary of AHCI Reports
- Does Race Matter? Access and Service Use by Race During 2002
- Does Race Matter? Access and Service Use for Children by Race During 2002, Supplemental Report on Children Involved with Social Services

Over the last several months, we have continued to work with our data partners at CYF and JPO to receive more detailed data. This continued collaboration is valuable to all parties. AHCI is now receiving more detailed data from both CYF and JPO, including the level of involvement and start and end dates for individual children involved in either system.

Using this new and improved data, we have recalculated our analyses to see what impact this change would have on our results. While the number of children and youth identified as being involved with CYF or JPO is smaller with our new time-sensitive data, the *comparisons* between African-American and Caucasian access and service use remained largely the same.

For example, with the new data, fewer African-American and Caucasian children were included in the analysis when involvement with CYF or JPO was limited to 2002. As a result, the access rates and median costs were generally higher than those reported in the original reports.

However, the proportional gaps between African-Americans and Caucasians remained consistent with our earlier results.

In two cases, trends noted in the original reports were reversed with the new, more precise data:

- African-American access rates for BHRS were slightly higher than Caucasian access rates for males 6-12 years old involved with JPO. In the original report for this age and gender group, the African-American access rate for BHRS was significantly less than the Caucasian access rate. Because very few children 6-12 years old are involved with JPO, this trend applied to 22 (4%) of the consumers involved with JPO.
- The median costs for African-American females involved with JPO were slightly higher than median costs for Caucasian females using the new data. In the original report, median costs for African-American females were significantly lower than median costs for Caucasian females. This trend applies to 178 (32%) of the consumers involved with JPO.

Otherwise, the trends and differences observed in the original report remained consistent with the new data. We plan to complete a follow-up analysis during 2007, using the new data to re-examine the original reporting time frame and to measure change through 2006.

For specific questions related to the reports, data sources, and changes to the original files, or for copies of the reports, please contact Emily Heberlein at eheberlein@ahci.org or 412-325-1100 x787.