



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Division of Employment and Assistance Programs
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January 31, 2008

TO: All WorkFirst Staff

FROM: Dori Shoji, Interim Director
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SUBJECT: **RELEASE OF REVISION TO WORKFIRST HANDBOOK:
SECTION 5.1 – PREGNANCY TO EMPLOYMENT (January 2008)**

On February 1, 2008, the WorkFirst Handbook will be updated to reflect additional changes to the WorkFirst Pregnancy to Employment Pathway. These changes include:

- Mandatory participation in mental health and/or chemical dependency treatment for up to 20 hours per week if the parent's assessment indicates treatment is needed and available even if the parent is:
 - In the third trimester of pregnancy, or
 - Claiming the infant exemption, or
 - Claiming the 12-week postpartum exemption period.

- A 12-week postpartum exemption period for a parent with an infant between 0-12 weeks of age who has already used their 12-month lifetime infant exemption.
- Imposition of sanctions if the parent does not participate as required in available mental health and/or chemical dependency treatment.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Stacey Bushaw at bushask@dshs.wa.gov or (360) 725-4622.

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