

Department of Social Welfare and Development
PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC)

NAC Resolution No. 23
Series of 2014

Mandatory Attendance of Couples to Specific Sessions in Modules 2.1 and 2.2
of the Family Development Sessions

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a human rights treaty which mandates States Parties to take all appropriate measure to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9710 or the Magna Carta of Women expounds that the state affirms the role of women in nation building and ensure the substantive quality of women and men. Further, the state shall promote the empowerment of women and pursue equal opportunities for women and men and ensure equal access to resources and to development results and outcome.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 8972 otherwise known as the Solo Parents' Welfare Act of 2000 defines solo parents and develops a comprehensive program of services for solo parents and their children, of which the program has more or less 273,436 solo parent beneficiaries.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 10354, known as The Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, recognizes and guarantees the human rights of all persons including their right to equality and non-discrimination of these rights, the right to sustainable human development, the right to health which includes reproductive health, the right to education and information, and the right to choose and make decisions for themselves in accordance with their religious convictions, ethics, cultural beliefs, and the demands of responsible parenthood.

WHEREAS, Article 71 of the Executive Order No. 209 or the Family Code of the Philippines provides that 'the management of the household shall be the right and duty of both spouses'.

WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 16, series of 2008, entitled Guidelines on the Implementation of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, provides cash grant to extreme poor households to address their immediate consumption needs, while the conditionalities are focused on building human capital and thus break the intergenerational cycle of poverty;

WHEREAS, the *Pantawid Pamilya* National Advisory Committee (NAC) is the highest policy-making inter-agency body that provides policy directions and guidance on matters pertinent to program implementation;

WHEREAS, attendance to Family Development Sessions (FDS) is one of the program conditionalities before providing grants to the household grantees' in order to enhance parental roles. Module 2.1 and Module 2.2 of the *Gabay sa Pagpapaunlad ng Pamilyang Pilipino* describes the specific session flow of the conduct of FDS for topics such as gender equality and equity, responsible parenthood and family planning.

WHEREAS, attendance in Module 2.1 of the FDS is one of the recommendations from the Field Visit of the National Advisory Committee at San Narciso, Quezon last October 9 to 11, 2013.

WHEREAS, enjoining both the husband and the wife to attend Modules 2.1 and 2.2 of the FDS will provide opportunity for both spouses to be knowledgeable about family concerns on equality, equity, responsible parenthood and family planning. This is in further pursuance to the principle that gender equality and equity plays a crucial role in development.

WHEREAS, the 17 Regional Advisory Committees agreed in requiring both the husband and wife to attend the discussion on Gender Sensitivity and Responsible Parenthood.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved by the members of the NAC to approve the following policies:

1. The two (2) sessions in Module 2.1 Paksa 1 (*Pantay na Pagtitinginan ng Mag-asawa*) shall be merged into one (1) session only. Also, the four (4) sessions in Module 2.2 Paksa 1 (*Pagsisimula at Pagbubuo ng Pamilya*) shall also be merged into one (1) session only, giving emphasis on the Family Planning methods.
2. Couples shall be required to attend the discussions of Module 2.1 Paksa 1 and Module 2.2 Paksa 1 of the Family Development Sessions which include topics on Family Planning, Responsible Parenthood and Gender Sensitivity. Absence of the husband and/or wife in the discussion of the said modules would mean non-compliance with the FDS conditionality for the corresponding month.
3. If the grantee is a grandparent of the child and is still in the reproductive age, presence of both husband (grandfather) and wife (grandmother) shall still be required. However, if the grantee is not in her reproductive age anymore, is a guardian, a widow/widower and/or solo parent, his/her presence would suffice and shall be considered for compliance.
4. Module 2.1 Paksa 2 (*Maayos na Relasyon ng Magulang at Anak*) shall not require the attendance of both parents but it shall be encouraged.
5. Sessions discussing Module 2.1 Paksa 1 and Module 2.2 Paksa 1 are encouraged to be conducted on weekends to ensure that there will be no conflict with the livelihood activities of the parent beneficiaries.
6. The Local Government Unit (LGU) Links, Social Welfare Assistants (SWA), and the Population Officers shall assist the City/Municipal Links in the said sessions through facilitation especially in finalizing arrangements on attending to the children beneficiaries while the parents are on the actual sessions.
7. The Commission on Population and the Pantawid Pamilya staff shall work together in informing the beneficiaries that the attendance to sessions on Module 2.1 Paksa 1 and Module 2.2 Paksa 1 is required for both parents for them to be aware of its importance. The

- schedule of the FDS on the said topics should be scheduled at least one month in advance to give grace period for the parent beneficiaries vis-à-vis their work/livelihood activities.
8. The Commission on Population, through the City/Municipal Population Officers, shall assist the City/Municipal Link in facilitating and delivering the actual sessions to the beneficiaries following the standard flow and methodology as stipulated in the Memorandum Circular 02: Guidelines on the Implementation of the Family Development Sessions in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.
 9. The City/Municipal Link and the City/Municipal Population Officer shall abide by the condensed Session Guides in the Gabay sa Pagpapaunlad ng Pamilyang Pilipino (Enhanced FDS Manual). Resource Persons for the sessions may also be tapped considering that they will be qualified based on the criteria set forth which can be found in the Session Guides.
 10. The Commission on Population, through the City/Municipal Population Officers, shall also assist the City/Municipal Links in monitoring the attendance of both couples to Module 2.1 and 2.2.
 11. The City/Municipal Link and the City/Municipal Population Officer shall refer to any local service provider, such as Municipal Health Office and Rural Health Unit staff for couples who would like to get more in-depth information on the Family Planning methods appropriate and acceptable to the couple.
 12. Mandatory attendance of both spouses shall be indicated in the Oath of Commitment as a conditionality of the program to be complied with by the beneficiaries. Non-compliance of both spouses for the required FDS sessions shall mean non-receipt of the cash grant for health for the monitoring period.

Adopted this 26th day of November, Two Thousand and Fourteen in Quezon City.


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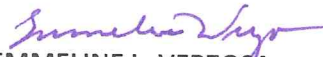
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