

06/16/2016

Dear Governor Haley:

My name is Teal Peoples, LISW-CP, LCSW, LCAS, MAC. I am also registered in South Carolina as a TF-CBT therapist through MUSC. Though I currently live in Charlotte, North Carolina, I am originally from the Orangeburg, South Carolina. I grew up in Charleston and was married in Mother Emmanuel Church in 2008. Both my parents and my two sisters attended South Carolina State University.

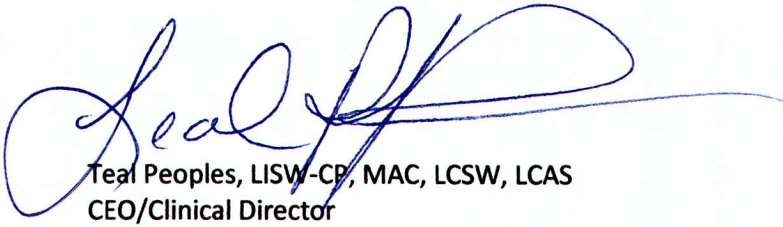
I am writing this letter to share my concerns and disappointment in not being able to serve the children and families of South Carolina in the capacity of an RBHS. I have been licensed in South Carolina since 2011 working in Upstate Carolina. My practice did individual and group therapy in South Carolina. When South Carolina opened its Mental Health program, people who had been practicing in North Carolina ran to South Carolina to offer services. Many of these transplanted agencies were given leeway to bill with no oversight. Before the flood gates opened, therapist had to first get a referral from the client's primary care physician before we could see a client or be contracted with the state to serve client who required a Licensed practitioner and were enrolled in RBHS which I was at that time.

When South Carolina opened the network for RBHS, every person who was not ethical in their billing practice flew to South Carolina and began to bankrupt the system like they did in North Carolina. Some of these people even attempted to get me to join them in their efforts to act as though they were offering quality care to families. I am an ethical person and chose not to participate in their efforts. After several months, these people were found to be billing for service not provided. Many billed astronomical amounts. How could Medicare miss the fact that one person can only see so many clients in a 24-hour period with no clinical staff oversight. Some agencies even threatened their Qualified Professionals to sign notes for work not provided. I urged people I knew to report these incidents and when they failed to do so, I did report the agencies and individuals for fraud. Medicare is necessary for many families who found that agencies had overbilled and their much needed Medicare were withdrawn leaving families without necessary health insurance.

I applied for RBHS and struggled to raise the \$10,000 processing fee for accreditation. As I submitted my papers, I was informed that the network had been closed. I am in the process of moving back to South Carolina and would like to be able to practice my craft. I am good at what I do and would like to offer quality service to the small towns of South Carolina. I have even been fortunate to work with military families all over the United States including South Carolina, South Korea and Germany as a Child and Family therapist.

I am asking there be a review of those currently in the RBHS system and those who are no longer providing much needed services should be dropped and those who are awaiting processing be considered. Unfortunately, there is a direct correlation to poverty and mental illness. According to the Center for Disease Control the five poorest states where children live in poverty includes South Carolina

with 28% of children are living in poverty. There is a need for therapist who will serve, travel and use ethical practices. I am one and merely asking for an opportunity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Teal Peoples', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teal Peoples, LISW-CP, MAC, LCSW, LCAS  
CEO/Clinical Director