

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Waldrop</i>	DATE <i>10-18-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101167</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>10-25-11</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>CC: Mr. Keck closed 10/20/11, letter attached.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Brenda James - HHS.pdf

From: "Peters, Hal" <HalPeters@gov.sc.gov>
To: Jennifer Lynch <LYNCHJEN@scdhhs.gov>
Date: 09/27/2011 4:22 PM
Subject: HHS.pdf
Attachments: HHS.pdf

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Jenny,

Attached is a batch of correspondence that we are referring to you. If you could please respond accordingly and forward me the appropriate response when complete, I'd greatly appreciate it. Thanks in advance!

Sincerely,

Hal Peters
Policy Analyst | Office of Governor Nikki Haley
O: 803.734.4062 | halpeters@gov.sc.gov

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2011

nhcorrespondence,

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

From: Hollye Reid [hreid@comporium.net]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2011 4:10 PM
To: Ralph Norman; Gary Simrill; weshayes@schouse.gov; Haley, Nikki
Subject: Fwd: DHHS withholding \$1.3M from DDSN

Importance: High

AUG 30 2011

Referred to Shuster
Answered _____

I am writing with this information as the parent of a child with severe special needs. I am trying to do my part as a good parent, an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves, and as a professional who works with families all over this state who have loved ones with disabilities or special needs. I am so sick of having no answer when parents call me and say, "do we make a rent payment, or pay for prescriptions", "do I buy groceries, or pay for therapy so that my child can one day walk, or talk"..... We should not be having to make these choices! Do we not value the lives of All that God created? Do we not invest a little, to help them reach their greatest potential? wake up, and realize this could be your family! One does not have to be born with a disability, to acquire one.

Please consider the hard work that YOU put into this budget, an DO NOT allow this to happen.

Thank you.

Hollye Reid

- DDSN budget was approved through the legislature this past year which meant that DDSN did not have to make any more (they have over the last several years) drastic cuts. DDSN was happy!
- Now, DHHS has told DDSN to find \$1.3 million in their budget to cut. DDSN is 95% funded by Medicaid, and technically Mr. Keck with DHHS can ask DHHS to do this.
- However, this has never been done before in our state where one head of an agency bypasses what the state legislators have decided and basically is changing what the legislators had decided.
- This could set a new precedence. Should our legislators be deciding the budget for DDSN or another agency head?????
- We would like to let our legislators know that this is being done and that we want them aware of it. That it concerns us that an "agency head at DHHS" has the authority to change a budget already set by the SC legislature.
- Please see below and make a few calls today or tomorrow

106342

◆ *HHS may have the legal authority (under Medicaid rules), but it is contrary to Legislative intent since the legislature made the allocation to DDSN and the state budget accounts for the Medicaid reimbursement.*

◆ *DDSN is not like other providers as Mr. Keck had said. Other providers are not given allocation by the Legislature and the Governor through state law.*

◆ *DDSN over the past four years cut their services to ensure that they were not running deficits, HHS on the other had did not make similar cuts.*

◆ *Unlike HHS, DDSN is not an insurance program.*

◆ *DDSN services are not an entitlement program. They can only offer services based on the allocation with the matching funds that they receive. HHS on the other had has a certain populations that their insurance is an entitlement.*

- ◆ *State agencies budgets are set by state law with oversight of the Legislature and the Governor. HHS does not have authority over other state agencies budgets that use Medicaid dollars.*
- ◆ *HHS taking \$1.3M from DDSN will results in further cuts to services. And could result in nearly \$4M in cuts to services.*

Thank you,

Hollye Reid

Family Connection of SC, Inc.
Special Events/Development Coordinator
Office: 803-366-4839
Cell: 803-417-1875
www.familyconnectionSC.org



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Meade

AUGUST 19, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING TO YOU AS A CONCERNED EMPLOYEE OF THE SALUDA NURSING CENTER. WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN THE EFFECTS OF THE CUTS BEING ENFORCED BY OUR GOVERNOR.

NOT ONLY, ARE THE FINANCIAL CUTS DUE TO THE MEDICAID CUTS AFFECTING US, BUT SO ARE THE NEWLY IMPOSED STAFFING PATTERNS. OUR STAFF AND FACILITY HAVE ALWAYS PRIDED THEMSELVES WITH BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT CARE, LOVE, AND SUPPORT TO OUR RESIDENTS.

THERE IS NO HUMANLY WAY WE CAN PROVIDE THAT SERVICE ON A DAILY BASIS WITH 4 TO 5 CNA'S ON FIRST SHIFT AND 3 TO 4 CNA'S ON SECOND SHIFT.

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THE RESIDENTS BECOMING MORE CONFUSED, AGITATED, AND REQUIRING MORE ONE ON ONE ATTENTION.

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SINCERELY,

*Janice Jones, CNA
2nd Shift.*

AUGUST 19, 2011

HHS

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Jessie Brown

THE RESIDENTS BECOMING MORE CONFUSED, AGITATED, AND REQUIRING MORE ONE ON ONE ATTENTION.

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SINCERELY,

Musie Brown

First Shift CNA

AUGUST 19, 2011

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SINCERELY,

Doris Bellamy CNA 2nd shift

AUGUST 19, 2011

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SINCERELY,

Natasha Hallman, CNA 1st shift

AUGUST 19, 2011

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Ashley Hall
1st shift CNA

AUGUST 19, 2011

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Minnie McCary, CNA 1st Shift

AUGUST 19, 2011

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SINCERELY,

Anthony Zott . 2nd shift CNA Riley Unit

AUGUST 19, 2011

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SINCERELY,

Claudia Guerin CNA
3rd shift

AUGUST 19, 2011

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SINCERELY,

Belinda Coleman CNA 1st Shift

AUGUST 19, 2011

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Whitney A. Williams, CNA
2nd Shift

AUGUST 19, 2011

- AND REQ

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October 20, 2011

Robert F. Bowles, Sr.
Administrator
Saluda Nursing Center
581 Newberry Highway
Saluda, South Carolina 29138-0398

Dear Mr. Bowles:

This letter is in response to your recent correspondence to Senator Nikki Setzler concerning the reduction to Medicaid Nursing Home Permit Days. The decision to reduce Medicaid permit days by eight (8) percent was recommended by providers in lieu of another rate reduction, effective July 1, 2011. At the same time, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) expanded the number of slots in its home and community based waiver program by 550 to serve current demand.

SCDHHS is currently monitoring access issues to ensure adequate care. As one way of assuring that people are in the most appropriate setting, we recently made an exemption to the Community Long Term Care (CLTC) waiting list to allow persons hospitalized and at risk of nursing facility placement to go to the top of the priority list. Home and community based services, as an alternative to institutional care, cost taxpayers much less (\$32 per day on average compared to \$127 a day). This will challenge our resources and capabilities as we shift to a more responsive system.

We are also encouraging partnerships between hospitals and nursing facilities to develop creative alternatives in the flow of consumers between stages in the continuum. A group of hospital discharge planners and nursing facility representatives have met four times with SCDHHS since this reduction was implemented in July to monitor the flow of patients to and from facilities. This group has made several recommendations that are being implemented. Finally, the Department is also finalizing a proposal to send to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to create a complex care program for those persons who are hospitalized and need a very high level of nursing care to meet their needs.

During the first quarter of the state fiscal year, the reduction in Medicaid beds resulted in many of the nursing facilities being over their allotment, but we anticipate that the numbers will be adjusted to their allotted number based on their attrition rate. At some point during the fiscal year, they will once again have available beds to fill with approved Medicaid recipients. As we approach the upcoming legislative session, SCDHHS will be convening a workgroup in November to review the Medicaid permit day law and recommend proposed changes. The South Carolina Nursing Home Association will be invited to participate in this workgroup.

Mr. Robert F. Bowles, Sr.
October 20, 2011
Page 2

Determining which programs and services to offer during such difficult times is always challenging. The agency's mission is to purchase the most health care for those in need at the least cost to taxpayers. We truly value your suggestions and concern for the overall health of this state, especially as we continuously strive to provide services that work to improve health.

We appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention and for your interest in the South Carolina *Healthy Connections* Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Waldrep", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam Waldrep
Director

cc: Saluda Nursing Home Staff

Brenda James - Log 167

From: Teeshla Curtis
To: Brenda James
Date: 11/01/2011 4:19 PM
Subject: Log 167
Attachments: Bowles Letter.PDF

Brenda,

This letter closes log 167 (Saluda Nursing Home Staff). Jenny is trying to reach Holley Reid by phone. Ms. Reid's correspondence is also a part of Log 167.

Teeshla

Brenda James - Log 167

Cleared 10/21/11 ✓

From: Teeshla Curtis
To: Brenda James
Date: 11/08/2011 9:10 AM
Subject: Log 167

Brenda,

Log 167 is closed.

Teeshla

>>> Jennifer Lynch 11/8/2011 8:48 AM >>>

I spoke with her last week - thanked her for her letter and let her know that executive staff has seen her comments.

Thanks,

Jenny Lynch,
Legislative Affairs and Communications
SC Department of Health and Human Services
(803) 898-3965
(803) 351-5673 Cell
(803) 255-8235 Fax

>>> Teeshla Curtis 10/31/2011 1:57 PM >>>

Jenny,

Were you able to contact Holley Reid?

Teeshla