

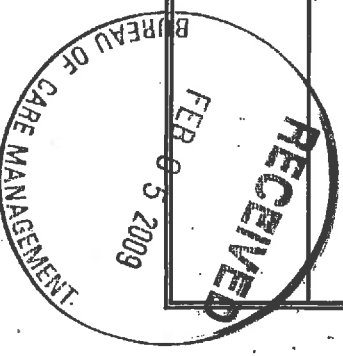
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers / Hamilton</i>	DATE <i>2-4-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100420</i>	I 1 Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Post N/A Per Felicity on 3/25/09</i>			

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
<i>Beverly Hamilton</i>	<i>Beit</i> <i>2/10/09</i>		
2.			
3.			
4.			



MIKE FAIR
CHAIRMAN

Corrections & Penology Committee

DAVID JORDAN
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
M. SHARON FENNELL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



THE SENATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
211 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
P. O. BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202
(803) 212-6420
FAX: (803) 212-6299

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bryan Kost
South Carolina Health and Human Services
Finance Commission
1801 Main Street
PO Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

Dear Mr. Kost:

Attached please find a copy of a letter from Ms. Marcy S. Freeman expressing concerns over recent Medicaid changes to the physical, occupational and speed therapy services.

Senator Fair would appreciate your addressing these questions and respond to the constituent and this office as well.

As always, we appreciate all that you do for this office.

Sincerely,


Sharon Fennell
Assistant to Senator Fair

Marcy S. Freeman
508 Stone Shield Way
Greenville, South Carolina 29609
(864)834-4828

January 29, 2009

Senator Michael Fair
211 Gressette Building
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Senator Fair,

I am writing to share my concern over recent Medicaid changes that have been made to physical, occupational and speech therapy. I understand that physical and occupational therapy will be limited to 50 sessions per year and speech therapy will be limited to 100 sessions per year. I also understand that Medicaid has decided to begin counting these services retroactively back to July 1, 2008. This is the area of greatest concern for me. My five year old son has Down syndrome and attends the Meyer Center for Special Children in Greenville. He has been receiving therapy services there during this time frame and the center has been billing them to Medicaid in good faith that they will be reimbursed for them. It does not seem ethical for Medicaid to change their program retroactively. The Meyer Center and other agencies across the state have built budgets with the expectation that they will be paid for the services that were provided during the last six months. It is my hope that you will support disabled children across the state and ask that retroactivity be appealed immediately.

Sincerely,

Marcy S. Freeman
Marcy S. Freeman



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

Ms. Marcy S. Freeman
508 Stone Shield Way
Greenville, South Carolina 29609

Dear Ms. Freeman:

Thank you for your recent letter of January 29, 2009 to Senator Fair regarding your concerns about proposed Medicaid cuts in therapy services. Senator Fair has asked that we respond directly to you.

As a result of significant state revenue shortfalls, the Medicaid budget for the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) has been reduced by \$137 million or 15% of the agency's general fund budget. Over 55% of the state Medicaid budget is federally mandated. When state funds are lacking, budget cuts are limited to our optional programs; unfortunately, rehabilitative therapy services fall into this category.

To date, all Medicaid programs scheduled for changes have been placed on hold in anticipation of additional funding from the Federal Government's Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and other legislation which will include increased funding to the states as a result of rising unemployment and increasing state Medicaid rolls. It is anticipated that the additional dollars allocated to South Carolina will allow us to continue to provide reimbursement for most of these services, but the agency will continue to scrutinize every provision to ensure that needs of South Carolina's beneficiaries are met.

We are exploring implementation of an authorization process for private therapy so that beneficiaries can continue to receive medically necessary services. This policy development will include input from providers and parents. We hope to have a new policy in place that is both fair and equitable.

We will continue to work during these challenging budget times to meet medical needs in our state. We appreciate your input, and we thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Felicity Myers
Deputy Director

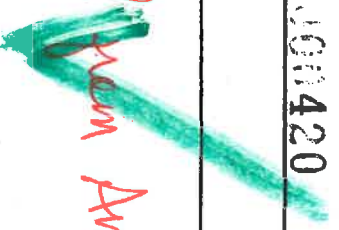
FM/hbm

cc: The Honorable Michael Fair

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

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2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<i>cc: fpt</i> <i>e-mail attached from Annie</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature	DATE DUE <i>2-13-09</i>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	DATE DUE _____

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Sincerely,

Marcy S. Freeman
Marcy S. Freeman

From: Annmarie McCanne
To: Brenda James
Date: 3/18/2009 12:19 pm
Subject: Logs 400 & 420

I have a note from Beverly stating that Felicity had these on her desk and she was to clear them with you. Can you let me know if these have been closed?

Thanks,
Annie

Annmarie "Annie" McCanne
Administrative Assistant
Bureau of Care Management & Medical Support Services
Phone 803-898-4614
Fax 803-255-8232
mccanne@scdhhs.gov