

From: Pitts, Ted <TedPitts@gov.sc.gov>
To: Veldran, Katherine <KatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov>
Mottel, Haley <HaleyMottel@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 4/1/2014 9:39:51 AM
Subject: FW: Mental Health/Special Needs ~ Website email from Jamie Smith

Please follow up with Jay with a status.

Ted

From: Jay Lucas [mailto:JayLucas@schouse.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 4:39 PM
To: Pitts, Ted
Subject: FW: Mental Health/Special Needs ~ Website email from Jamie Smith

Did you receive this? Has anything been done or has Ms. Smith been contacted by your office?
THANK YOU

Doris A. Taylor
Executive Secretary
803-734-3107
South Carolina House of Representatives
Invitations and Memorial Resolutions Committee
503 Blatt Building
and House Speaker Pro-Tempore
505 Blatt Building

P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211

1105 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

SC House Invitations may also be reached at-
hinvcomm@schouse.gov

From: Jamie Smith [mailto:jamie.smith@coker.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Jay Lucas
Subject: RE: Mental Health/Special Needs ~ Website email from Jamie Smith

I want to know if you will give me the opportunity to speak before the house of representatives immediately due to the issues that have arose with my daughter. I also want to let you know I have not heard from anyone not even Nikki Haley ... I'm so very disappointed in our government.
Thanks Jamie Smith

On Mar 28, 2014 1:25 PM, "Jamie Smith" <jamie.smith@coker.edu> wrote:

As Kaitlyn's adopted mother I have watched her grow from a baby into a beautiful little girl. Her eyes and smile will still your heart. I have watched Kaitlyn struggle for many years with her disabilities, and mental

health. We have seen many doctors, counselors, developmental pediatrics, psychiatrist, and occupational therapist. She has been diagnosed with ADHD, ODD, BIPOLAR, EMOTIONALLY disturbed, SOCIAL PRAGMATIC COMMUNICATION DISORDER, and recently FETAL ALCOHOL NEURO DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER. Kaitlyn struggles in school, society, and in the home. She does not deal well with change at all. In the last year and a half Kaitlyn's really had a struggle she been hospitalized on three different occasions due to harming herself, running away, and making threats to bring a gun to school and kill herself and her teacher. Kaitlyn was dismissed from school on 12/04/13 for the threat she made to bring a gun to school and kill herself and the teacher; a manifestation meeting was held on 12/06/13 and it was deemed that that these behaviors were a manifestation of her disability, a self-contained classroom was mentioned and determined not suitable at this time, a residential placement was mentioned and Continuum of Care said they would find placement at this time this was the best option. I asked the Case worker how long Kaitlyn would be in residential placement and she stated it could be 6 to 9 months. Kaitlyn was provided home based service until placement at a residential facility was in place. On 12/12/13 Kaitlyn saw her psychiatrist Dr. Justice and made a statement to him that she could kill and nothing would be done, at this time Dr. Justice said it was in her best interest to be hospitalized he then sent her to Toumey ER in Sumter S.C. where she later was committed to MUSC Children's Psychiatric unit where she remained until she was admitted to Three Rivers Midlands Campus in Columbia S.C. on 12/19/13. Kaitlyn has remained at Three Rivers Midlands Campus and is still there presently, this has been a very good place for Kaitlyn we have learned so much about her condition even though she has not made her goals the Doctor and caseworker/counselor are determined not to give up on her. They work hand in hand with her and us as a family. At this time the doctor has stated Kaitlyn is not ready to return home to normal everyday life and has asked that Continuum of Care to extend her stay so she can complete her treatment under strict supervision however this was denied and a discharge date was set for April 2, 2014. As a mother I am asking that this be reconsidered, I want to see my little girl succeed in life, and be able to come home and be with her family. I know she will never be perfect nobody ever is but I am asking that her mental health not to be ignored. She has the potential to succeed and I will be there every step of the way but as a mother I cannot let the system fail my child. The doctor has stated she represents a danger to herself and others at this time. Also I have spoken with her primary psychiatrist and he was even in shock and he said it was sad because she would eventually end up being readmitted. This is not good on any child or any family. I feel something drastic will have to happen to make this cold hearted world realize that mental health is important and they deserve proper treatment. I feel the Governors office of Continuum of Care is neglecting the real issues at hand.. I have to be the voice for my little girl and hopefully someone will listen before its to late. Sincerely, Jamie Smith

On Mar 28, 2014 1:18 PM, "Jay Lucas" <JayLucas@schouse.gov> wrote:

Jamie,
Ted Pitts works in the Governor's office. Hopefully, he will be in touch with you very soon. You will want to copy detailed information to him about your daughter.
Let me know how things are going and how I can further help your family,
Jay Lucas

Doris A. Taylor
Executive Secretary
[803-734-3107](tel:803-734-3107)
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Columbia, SC 29201

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hinvcomm@schouse.gov

From: jamie.smith@coker.edu [mailto:jamie.smith@coker.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 4:42 PM
Subject: Mental Health/Special Needs ~ Website email from Jamie Smith

I am a mother who is looking for help for her 9 year old daughter. She has mental health/special needs and currently resides in Columbia S.C. at Three Rivers Behavioral Health. She was placed there on 12/19/2013 on recommendations of continuum of care, Darlington County School District, and her Psychiatrist David Justice. As of 3/20/2014 the Governors office of Continuum of Care requested my daughter to be discharged on 4/2/2014 however Dr. Masters the doctor who is over her at the facility says she's not ready to be released home. She has not completed her treatment and she is a risk to herself and others. I will share any medical documentation or information with you in person or by request. I have contacted every senator and legislature and the governor here in South Carolina, I could possibly contact and only one has responded since 3/20/2014. That was senator Lindsey Graham unfortunately he deals with federal issues but he took the time to forward my letter to the Governor and asked her to review and contact me personally. However that's yet to happen, he also forwarded my concerns to the Governors office of Continuum of Care and yet again all they talk about is there Wraparound program they will do. The system in bluntly denying my kid the treatment she needs. I am her voice and I want someone to hear me. Please don't let the system fail my little girl.. I would love to share more of her story with you. Thanks Jamie Smith

Jamie Smith
3516 West Old Camden Road
MCBEE, SC 29101