

Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center
Board of Directors

August 7, 2013

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Honorable Nikki Haley
Governor
P O Box 12267
Columbia, SC 29211

RE: Your Support of Mental Health

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Coastal Empire Community Mental Health Center, we thank you for your continued support of the Department of Mental Health through the annual state budget process. Our Board also appreciates your public stance in support of services for the mentally ill. The importance of the influence of the state's chief executive officer in overcoming stigma is invaluable to the lives of individuals and families coping with mental illness. The Board appreciates your leadership in these difficult economic times and your commitment to moving the State of South Carolina forward to benefit all of its citizens.

Our mental health center has continued its commitment to serving those in our communities with mental illnesses and their families beginning in 1966. Since its inception, the Center has provided over 1,633,000 services to adults, children and families who are impacted by mental illnesses.

As I found working with you on the podiatry bill eight years ago, you don't take the path of least resistance. As occurred that year, you were conscientious in learning the substance of the problem.

The Board stands ready to work with you in any other public or private mental health related efforts your office undertakes.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Miller, DPM, Board Chair

xc: Mr. John Magill, SCDMH Director
Mr. Geoff Mason, Deputy Director for Community Mental Health Services