

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese</i>	DATE <i>7-9-12</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100010</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>7-19-12</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR			
<i>CC: Mr. Dyck, Singleton, Kost</i> <i>Cleared 7/25/12 letter attached.</i>			

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

From: Jan Polatty
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 11:29 AM
To: Brenda James
Subject: Please Log to Bz.....FW: Request from U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

cc – Director, COS, Kost

RECEIVED

JUL 09 2012

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

From: Melanie Giese
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2012 10:44 AM
To: Jan Polatty
Cc: Annmarie McCanne
Subject: Re: Request from U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Yes

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 9, 2012, at 10:38 AM, "Jan Polatty" <POLATTYJ@scdhhs.gov> wrote:

Should we log this??

From: Deirdra Singleton
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2012 4:48 PM
To: Jan Polatty
Cc: Bryan Kost
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Request from U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Fyi

From: Melanie Giese
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2012 3:39:15 PM
To: ANA LOPEZ-DEFEDE; KATHY MAYFIELD-SMITH; Mary Roberts; Lisa B. Correll
Cc: Valeria Williams; Annmarie McCanne; Deirdra Singleton
Subject: Fwd: Request from U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Can y'all help me with this? Has a deadline date. Thanks. Bz

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anthony Keck <KECK@scdhhs.gov>
Date: July 8, 2012 3:11:50 PM EDT
To: Melanie Giese <GieseM@scdhhs.gov>
Cc: Deirdra Singleton <Singled@scdhhs.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Request from U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Please have completed

Tony Keck
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Oldmixon, Jonathon P" <OldmixonJ@gao.gov>
Date: July 5, 2012 10:31:12 AM EDT
To: "keck@scdhhs.gov" <keck@scdhhs.gov>
Subject: Request from U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Tony Keck,

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) is currently determining the extent to which state Medicaid programs have implemented changes as a result of our December 2011 report on Medicaid-covered psychotropic drug prescriptions for foster children in five states ([GAO-12-201](#)) and HHS's Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Information Memorandum ([ACYF-CB-IM-12-03](#)), which incorporated the recommendations from our report.

Please provide information on actions taken by completing the attached questionnaire and returning it to Jonathon Oldmixon at the email address indicated on the questionnaire by July 25, 2012. This work is being performed under the direction of Gregory Kutz, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service (see attached request letter).

If you have any questions about this request or the GAO audit of this subject, please contact Jonathon Oldmixon at (202) 512-4461 or oldmixonj@gao.gov.

Thank you,

Jonathon Oldmixon
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20548
(202) 512 - 4461

<GAOHQ-#5755238-v2-SIGNED_LETTER_TO_MEDICAID_DIRECTORS_-
_ALL_56_JDS_45.pdf>

<GAOHQ-#5753823-v1-STATE_MEDICAID_DIRECTORS_QUESTIONNAIRE.DOC>

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR



ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese / Williams</i>	DATE <i>7-9-12</i>
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Please provide information on actions taken by completing the attached questionnaire and returning it to Jonathon Oldmixon at the email address indicated on the questionnaire by July 25, 2012. This work is being performed under the direction of Gregory Kutz, Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service (see attached request letter).

If you have any questions about this request or the GAO audit of this subject, please contact Jonathon Oldmixon at (202) 512-4461 or oldmixonj@gao.gov.

Thank you,

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_ALL_56_JDS_45.pdf>

<GAOHQ-#5753823-v1-STATE_MEDICAID_DIRECTORS_QUESTIONNAIRE.DOC>



GAO

Accountability • Integrity • Reliability

United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

Forensic Audits and Investigative Service

July 2, 2012

attachments
for Log 10

Tony Keck
Director

State of South Carolina, Department of Health & Human Serv
1801 Main Street, PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29201-8206

Dear Tony Keck:

In December 2011, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported on the results of an analysis of Medicaid-covered psychotropic drug prescriptions for foster children in five states (GAO-12-201). In the five states GAO analyzed, foster children were prescribed psychotropic drugs at higher rates than non-foster children in Medicaid during 2008, and monitoring programs fell short of best principles guidelines published by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). We therefore recommended that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) consider endorsing guidance for states on best practices for overseeing psychotropic prescriptions for foster children, including guidance that addresses informed consent, oversight, consultation, and information sharing.

In response to our report, HHS's Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued an Information Memorandum (ACYF-CB-IM-12-03) which incorporated our recommendations. GAO is currently determining the extent to which state Medicaid programs have implemented changes as a result of the December 2011 report. As part of this effort, we would like to know what actions, if any, have been taken by your department either in response to the GAO recommendations incorporated into the ACF memorandum or to the report more broadly. Specifically, we are interested in responses to the questions listed on the enclosed questionnaire. Please provide information on actions taken to Jonathon Oldmixon at the email or mailing address indicated on the accompanying questionnaire by July 25, 2012.

If you have any questions about this request or the GAO audit of this subject, please contact Jonathon Oldmixon at (202) 512-4461 or oldmixonj@gao.gov. Thank you for taking the time to improve oversight of programs that prescribe psychotropic drugs to foster children. We appreciate your time and effort to provide us with responses to these questions.

Sincerely yours,

Gregory D. Kutz
Director

Forensic Audits and Investigative Service



United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

Forensic Audits and Investigative Service

GAO Questionnaire to Medicaid Directors

Instructions: Please complete this questionnaire using MS-Word. First, save the file on your computer. Then, to answer the questions, click on the answer box _____ and begin typing. The box will expand to accommodate your answer. When you have completed the questionnaire, please resave the file and email it as an attachment to the email address below.

With respect to psychotropic drug prescriptions for foster children, please describe any actions that your agency has taken since December 2011 in the issue areas below. If your jurisdiction has taken no action in an issue area, please enter "No action taken" as your response.

1. **Informed consent**, for example, identifying caregivers empowered to give consent, or establishing requirements for initial and ongoing communication between the prescriber, health care providers, guardians, children and other stakeholders about prescriptions or other mental health treatment for foster children, etc.

2. **Oversight**, for example, monitoring rates of psychotropic prescriptions, or monitoring screening and treatment practices, etc.

3. **Consultation**, for example, providing consultations with child psychiatrists upon request, or involving psychiatrists in evaluations to identify need for psychotropic drugs, etc.

4. **Information sharing**, for example, establishing websites or other mechanisms for sharing informational and educational materials related to psychotropic medications, etc.

5. **Other related actions**, including any actions taken to strengthen oversight of psychotropic prescriptions which may not fall directly into the issue areas listed above.

Thank you for your response.

Please email your completed questionnaire to: Jonathon Oldmixon at oldmixonj@gao.gov.



July 25, 2012

Email Transmittal: oldmixonj@gao.gov

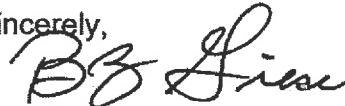
Mr. Jonathon Oldmixon
U. S. Government Accountability Office
441 G. Street NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Oldmixon:

Thank you for your letter and survey regarding the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) concerning policy implementation on use of psychotropic drugs for covered Medicaid foster children. We have attached the survey responses, which outlines the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) and the South Carolina Department of Social Services approach to this strategy.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Valeria Williams at (803) 898-3477 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Melanie "BZ" Giese, RN
Deputy Director

MG/as



GAO

Accountability * Integrity * Reliability

United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

Forensic Audits and Investigative Service

GAO Questionnaire to Medicaid Directors

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1. **Informed consent**, for example, identifying caregivers empowered to give consent, or establishing requirements for initial and ongoing communication between the prescriber, health care providers, guardians, children and other stakeholders about prescriptions or other mental health treatment for foster children, etc.

The State of South Carolina has developed a collaborative work group to develop and implement a pilot to update the informed consent process. A pilot project will work through the proposed policy and address all findings prior to a state wide system implementation.

2. **Oversight**, for example, monitoring rates of psychotropic prescriptions, or monitoring screening and treatment practices, etc.

The pilot project developed the protocol for oversight and designating authority for approval of drugs based on a prescribed authorization system. The protocol outlines the organizational structure, the level of authority, the training requirements, and the policy that must be followed before consent is granted.

3. **Consultation**, for example, providing consultations with child psychiatrists upon request, or involving psychiatrists in evaluations to identify need for psychotropic drugs, etc.

Consultation with the appropriate credentialed clinician is an integral part of the assessment and intake process. This is done through the informed case planning and referral/linkage to services.

4. **Information sharing**, for example, establishing websites or other mechanisms for sharing informational and educational materials related to psychotropic medications, etc.

The communication component of this implementation will be developed as the pilot is concluded and the statewide implementation is executed.

5. ***Other related actions***, including any actions taken to strengthen oversight of psychotropic prescriptions which may not fall directly into the issue areas listed above.

The Department of Social Services, South Carolina Department of Mental Health, and South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services are working to improve the quality and case coordination of the medical and behavioral healthcare that all children in foster care receive. Through prioritizing the highly complex children in care (Medically Fragile, Severely Emotionally Disturbed, Medically Complex, and Behavioral Health Complex) we are making preparations to enroll them in a single designated Medical Home Network. The children in foster care who are not highly complex in their medical and/or behavioral health needs will be enrolled in a designated Managed Care Organization.

Thank you for your response.

Please email your completed questionnaire to: Jonathon Oldmixon at oldmixonj@gao.gov.