

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Waldrep</i>	DATE <i>8-1-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101063</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Heck</i> <i>Cleared 9/8/11, letter</i> <i>attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>8-10-11</i>
	<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.			

John and Pat Schnorr
223 Richardson Rd.
Simpsonville, SC 29680-7025
864-757-9056

July 29, 2011

RECEIVED

AUG 01 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Governor Nikki R. Haley
1st Floor, Capitol Building – West Wing
P. O. Box 12267
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. Anthony Keck
SC Department of Health & Human Services
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Beverly A.H. Buscemi, Ph.D
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
3440 Harden Street Ext.
P. O. Box 4706
Columbia, South Carolina 29240

Re: Petition to Phase out Waiting Lists

Dear Governor Haley and Directors Keck and Buscemi:

On June 23 I mailed a copy of the above named Petition to Governor Haley. I also personally delivered the Petition to the DDSN Commission hearing to Director Keck and Director Buscemi. This Petition consisted of 916 signatures representing South Carolina citizens that are concerned with the Waiver Waiting Lists that have been frozen since early 2009 and affect our disabled citizens. We have received no response of any kind and there appears to be no mention of it even being presented in the Minutes of said DDSN Commission Hearing. We feel very strongly that these 916 citizens deserve an appropriate response and that it is unfair to continue to ignore those with special needs. We believe we have a right to know if any steps intend to be taken to activate these Waiver Lists within a reasonable time frame. These special needs citizens have already been approved and are deserving of these life sustaining services. They have been ignored too long and are waiting for the news that will greatly improve their quality of life. I will continue to advocate for these waiting lists with editorials and any other way I can hope to bring this issue the attention it justly deserves or until such time as you propose a solution and begin to serve your special needs citizens.

Yours truly,



Pat Schnorr

Cc's via email to DDSN Commission Members

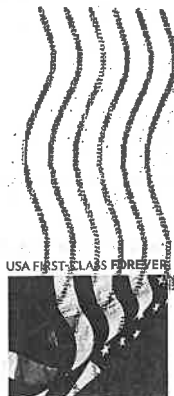
John and Pat Schnorr
223 Richardson Road
Simpsonville, SC 29680

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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

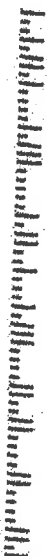
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USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER

Mr. Anthony Keck
SC Department of Health & Human Services
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

23202+8206





September 8, 2011

Pat Schnorr
223 Richardson Road
Simpsonville, SC 29680-7025

Dear Ms. Schnorr,

I am writing in response to your recent letter to South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), Director Anthony Keck concerning waiting lists for our Medicaid waiver programs. The SCDHHS is committed to providing seniors and people with disabilities expanded care options through Medicaid by promoting home and community-based services (HCBS) care as an alternative to institutional placement.

Currently, the Medicaid program serves more than 20,000 individuals through HCBS waiver programs, compared to fewer than 15,000 individuals in institutional settings. However, the agency believes more people should have the ability to be served in the community. SCDHHS has renewed its efforts to achieve this goal through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This initiative will actively seek participants and involve a multi-agency effort that includes the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. When operational, the grant will allow the agency to provide additional support to some seniors and disabled individuals who currently reside in Nursing Facilities or Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded, but would rather live in the community. The MFP grant focuses on the following:

- Increase the use of HCBS, rather than institutional, long-term care services;
- Elimination of barriers or mechanisms, whether in the State law, the State Medicaid plan, the State budget, or otherwise, that prevent or restrict the flexible use of Medicaid funds to enable Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive support for appropriate and necessary long-term services in the settings of their choice;
- Increasing the ability of the State Medicaid program to assure continued provision of home and community-based long-term care services to eligible individuals who choose to transition from an institution to a community setting; and,

- Ensure that procedures are in place to provide quality assurance for eligible individuals receiving Medicaid home and community-based long term care services and to provide for continuous quality improvement in such services.

This effort will require the State to reexamine and redirect current funding from existing sources in order to fund additional individuals in the community. We have currently begun engaging our Medicaid partners in identifying possible funding shifts that would enable the Medicaid program to become more efficient and have the ability to serve more individuals within the current funding limits. This may require making difficult decisions; however, SCDHHS is committed to opening up a dialogue with participants, families, providers and other stakeholders as a reallocation plan is developed.

In closing, addressing the unmet need of persons awaiting HCBS will continue to provide challenges to our agency in the months ahead. In our current budget environment, we must continue to focus on ways to drive unnecessary health care costs from the system and seek ways to redirect funding to address waiting lists. Thank you for your efforts to raise this important issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Waldrep", with a stylized, flowing script.

Sam Waldrep
Deputy Director

SW/mh