

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>10-15-07</i>
--------------------	-------------------------

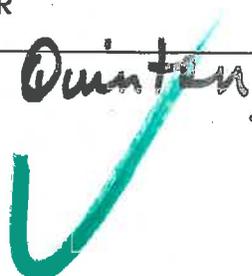
DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000205</i>	I <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>CC: Singleterry, Quintana,</i> 	I <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
	I <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS <small>(Only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

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

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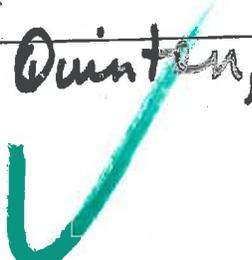
DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000205</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>CC: Singleton, Quinten,</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

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1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Alan D. Clemmons
District No. 107 - Horry County
610 18th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577



Committees:
Judiciary, 2nd Vice Chairman
Special Laws
Sub-Committee

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

October 10, 2007

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Emma Forkner, Director
SC Dept. Of Health & Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia SC 29202-8206

Log: Myers
E: Singleton
Quinto
Rec. Action

Dear Director Forkner:

Thank you for your speedy response to my inquiry regarding Adult Day Care Medicaid transportation services and specifically the case of Katie Collins. It is comforting to know that the Department of Health and Human Services is working to ameliorate the burdensome issues that Katie's situation highlights.

I look forward to your office keeping me abreast of progress on addressing these issues. In the interim, if there is anything that I may do legislatively to assist you in bringing about change that will bring relief to folks like the Collins family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alan D. Clemmons

ADC:dkm
ade/forkner, HHS, wpd
cc: Marcia Williamson
Gail Collins

Ben -

Please pull any logs/responses to Katie Collins' file!

Great letter!
Thanks for the letter
for response

Ret Log # 122, 114, 116

S.C. I-73 Assn., Chairman
Majority Caucus, Treasurer
618-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211
Tel. (803) 734-2994
clemmons@scstatehouse.net

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Boaling/Myers</i>	<i>8-28-07</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	000114	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature	DATE DUE <i>9-4-07</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<i>cc: Ms. Forney, Dep. Standards Kost, Quinlan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature	DATE DUE _____
<i>* Note - Same constituent... draft 2 letters.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA	DATE DUE _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	DATE DUE _____

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
<i>1. * Make sure Susan Duncan of Her office is copied on this log response.</i>			
<i>2. cleared 9/10/07, letter attached</i>			
<i>3.</i>			
<i>4.</i>			

JOHN M. "JAKE" KNOTTS, JR.
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 23
LEXINGTON COUNTY



SENATE ADDRESS:
POST OFFICE BOX 142
303 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202
PHONE: (803) 212-6350
FAX: (803) 212-6356
E-MAIL: JMK@SCSENATE.ORG

August 23, 2007

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SC Department of Health & Human Services
Attention: Emma Forkner, Director
1801 Main Street
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Mrs. Forkner,

I have enclosed a letter sent to my attention from Mrs. Gail Collins of Myrtle Beach, SC. I respectfully request that your legislative liaison review it and suggest possible ways to eliminate any type of discriminatory nature in the current Medicaid laws, particularly in regards to transportation to and from service providers. I would like a written response so that I may consider practical and rational ways to amend the laws.

I will certainly appreciate any input you may have as well. Thank you kindly for your attention. With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Knotts, Jr.", written over a circular scribble.

John M. "Jake" Knotts, Jr.
SC Senator-District 23
Lexington County

Log: BS/Myers
c: Forkner, Depps,
Stons, Kost, Quirt
"du. My" "

Enclosure:

JMK/lmc

6091 Renata Lane

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

August 13, 2007

The Honorable John M. "Jake" Knotts, Jr.

Post Office Box 142

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Knotts,

My name is Gail Collins. My husband John and I have lived in Horry County all our lives where he works as a mechanic for a rental company and I teach language arts at Forestbrook Middle School. We have raised two sons and one daughter in the Socastee community and have seen tremendous growth and change in the area over the last several decades.

I am writing in reference to a great injustice that is being done to the disabled and elderly population of our state. It is highly probable that you and others in similar positions are not aware of this situation; as a fellow South Carolinian, I feel certain that when it is brought to your attention, steps will be taken to correct this unfairness.

Many elderly and handicapped South Carolinians must depend on our Medicaid system for assistance with medical and transportation needs. My own twenty-five year old daughter is physically and mentally handicapped, and although I have managed to maintain Blue Cross Blue Shield coverage for her through my job, Medicaid also helps with the great expenses that are a part of caring for a special-needs person. One area of great expense is her day care costs while I am working during the school year. Since graduating from the South Carolina School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multihandicapped in 2004, Katie has attended Atlantic Health Care, a fine adult day care facility located in Conway. CRPTA provides transportation, picking up Katie at home in the morning and returning her to me at Forestbrook Middle School in the afternoon, and therein lies the problem.

* According to CRPTA's calculations, Katie lives 13.7 miles from the day care facility. A clause in the Medicaid law states that Medicaid will pay transportation costs only for persons who live 15 or more miles from the provider. The day care provider enters into a contract with Medicaid agreeing that they will pay for or provide transportation for persons who live within a 15 mile radius of the day care center. Part of the agreement is that the provider will use a portion of the forty-five dollar per diem rate that they receive for a Medicaid client to provide this service. At some time in the past this may have been a workable concept; Atlantic Health Care has been in business for approximately sixteen years, so the owners apparently have been able to provide their services for both Medicaid and non-Medicaid clients, despite the discriminatory nature of this law. After all, it only seems fair that all individuals who qualify for Medicaid services should receive the same services with no stipulations.

In addition to the unfairness of this part of the law, it creates a financial impossibility for those who operate the facilities. For example, Katie lives just over thirteen miles from the day care center, but she rides a circuitous route as the bus picks up other clients so the transportation provider bills the day care provider for every mile that she is on the bus which is far more than 13.7. Of course, costs for the transportation company are rising, so recently their rates increased as well; the new proposed rate to transport Katie to and from day care is just over \$43.00 (forty-three dollars) daily. Of course, one need not be a mathematician to quickly figure out that the day care provider cannot possibly pay workers to care for Katie, serve a nutritious lunch, and organize suitable activities for two dollars a day. It is preposterous to even propose this to the day care center. Yes, they entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services, but obviously this contract is no longer viable for the day care center and certainly not for the needy citizens of South Carolina.

The owner of Atlantic Health Care also owns a facility in Loris, South Carolina, which is sixteen miles from Conway. As I prepare to begin a new school year, the only solution we could find to this problem is to bus Katie and five other special needs clients this additional sixteen miles to a totally new center with completely new caregivers. Aside from the emotional turmoil this creates for my daughter, it doesn't strike me as a cost-effective answer to the problem. Is it logical to spend more Medicaid money to transport Katie to Loris when it would cost less for Medicaid to pay for her to simply stay where she is?

This law must be reviewed and revised. Perhaps at one time it worked for all involved, including DHHS, the day care providers, and the vulnerable people that it affects. Perhaps even now the concept "looks good on paper." However, it is no longer working for the people of our great state. These are not all mentally or physically disabled individuals. Some of them are elderly people who worked hard all their lives, paid their taxes, lived decent lives, and who now need a secure place to be while their families continue that tradition. Perhaps their families use day care as an alternative to nursing home placement, but if those day care providers cannot operate in the black, the doors will be closing and then where will the fine people of South Carolina turn?

I am asking you to investigate this great injustice. There should not be "conditions" that recipients must meet in order to receive the same benefit that the person sitting beside them on the bus receives. Medicaid benefits must be fair and equitable to all who qualify. I hope to hear from you soon regarding this matter. You may contact me at my home phone 843-236-7155 or my cell phone 843-421-2155 after school hours, or you may e-mail me at nrsgc@msn.com.

Sincerely,

Gail Collins

Gail Collins

843-651-9995
Monday is Local's Appreciation Day!



News Weather Sports News Features Team-15 Community What's On Home

Missing woman back home with family

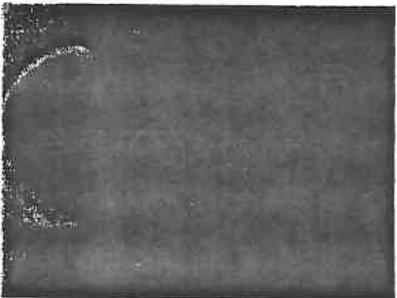
11/23/07 6:58:37 PM

The 24-year-old woman who wandered from her adult day care facility Tuesday is home safe with her parents. Her mom doesn't blame the day care, but rather a situation that forced her to send her daughter to a new place.

Kate Collins is energetic and curious. She keeps her parents busy, especially on a day like Tuesday.

Gail Collins is Kate's mom. "I got a call from Kate's day care center that she had wandered away. They were in a panic."

It was Kate's first day at the adult day care center in Loris. She was last seen before 2:00pm Tuesday afternoon on the front porch. Police and around 200 people looked for Kate for hours.



It's a difficult search when you can't just shout for the person and expect them to answer.

"A special needs child, one who is deaf, who cannot communicate with people. A child who has not been able to learn her phone number or learn how to tell people her address," Katie's mom explained.

Searchers went home at midnight and planned to start again Wednesday morning, however Kate came back first. "About 7:00 am, she appeared next door to the day care center, trying to find her way back apparently having spent the night in the very building next door."

Gail Collins said the reason Kate was at the Loris center was because Medicaid wouldn't pay for Kate to continue at the Conway center she was attending. It was too close to their home.

"In order for Medicaid to pay for her transportation costs she must attend a facility 15 or more miles way from her home," explained Katie's mom.

Despite the financial burden, Gail said Kate will go back to her Conway day care on Friday. Kate's parents said she was back to her usual self pretty quickly.

Email: Feedback@WPDE.com

[Return to News](#)

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Broadcasting Corporation

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Shawn Hixenbaugh
Real Estate Consultant
New Resors LLC
shixenbaugh@newresorts.com



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House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

RECEIVED

AUG 27 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Jimmy C. Bales, Ed.D.
District No. 80 - Richland County
1515 Crossing Creek Road
Eastover, SC 29044

432-C Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

Committee:
Labor, Commerce and Industry

Tel. (803) 734-3058
Tel. (803) 776-7355
Beeper (803) 304-0464

August 24, 2007

*Re: Log
Sarnel
draft
draft 2
letter*

Ms. Emma Forkner, Executive Director
SC Dept. of Health and Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Director Forkner:

I have enclosed a letter I received from Mrs. Gail Collins of Myrtle Beach concerning her special needs daughter Katie. At issue is the transportation to and from daycare for Katie and the 15 or more mile rule.

Please review her letter and offer some advice or suggestion that may prove beneficial to Katie and her family. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Jimmy
Jimmy C. Bales

JCB/vhr/2007august24-5

Enclosures

6091 Renata Lane

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

August 13, 2007

The Honorable Dr. Jimmy C. Bales

Post Office Box 11867

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Bales,

My name is Gail Collins. My husband John and I have lived in Horry County all our lives where he works as a mechanic for a rental company and I teach language arts at Forestbrook Middle School. We have raised two sons and one daughter in the Socastee community and have seen tremendous growth and change in the area over the last several decades.

I am writing in reference to a great injustice that is being done to the disabled and elderly population of our state. It is highly probable that you and others in similar positions are not aware of this situation; as a fellow South Carolinian, I feel certain that when it is brought to your attention, steps will be taken to correct this unfairness.

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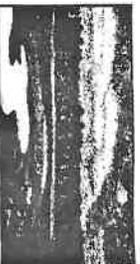
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Sincerely,


Gail Collins



Monday is Locals' Appreciation Day!

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Missing woman back home with family

01/26/07 6:33:37 PM

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Email: Feedback@WPDE.com

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Shawn Hixenbaugh
Real Estate Consultant
New Resorts LLC
shixenbaugh@
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FAX COVER SHEET



S. C. SENATE
 FAX # (803) 212-6011

DATE: August 29, 2007
 TO: Brian Kost
 FROM: Debbie Barthe
 FAX NUMBER: 255-8235
 PAGES 5(Including this page)

MESSAGE:

Brian, We received this last week or so. She is not in our district, but I wanted to pass it along to you as it does seem a bit crazy for this family to have to do this. You may already be aware, but just thought I would see if anything ~~was~~ could be done.
 Thanks.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE SHEETS INDICATED,

PLEASE CALL (803) 212-6008.

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Log #114

Bur' original
Rib' !
175 gnx.

8/29

6091 Renata Lane

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

August 13, 2007

The Honorable Kent M. Williams

Post Office Box 142

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Williams,

My name is Gail Collins. My husband John and I have lived in Horry County all our lives where he works as a mechanic for a rental company and I teach language arts at Forestbrook Middle School. We have raised two sons and one daughter in the Socastee community and have seen tremendous growth and change in the area over the last several decades.

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Sincerely,



Gail Collins

FROM : SC SENATE

FAX NO. : 8032126011

Aug. 28 2007 02:45PM P4

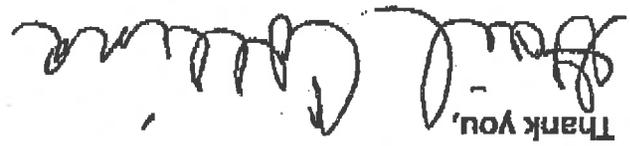
Addendum to letter dated August 13, 2007

August 16, 2007

Please note the attached news report about Katie's disappearance from the Loris facility on Tuesday, August 14. It was her first day at the center, and she was gone approximately 19 hours. It was a night of absolute horror for me and my family that would not have happened if we had not transferred her from the Conway center. We thank God that she survived the ordeal.

I ask you to please remember that Medicaid policy is not just about numbers and funds. It affects real people who are just like you and me.

Thank you,



Gail Collins

08/29/2007 03:37PM

WPDE ABC 15 News Channel 15 Myrtle Beach, Florence SC News

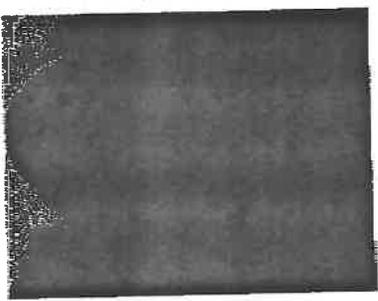
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Missing woman back home with family

8:26:57 AM

The 24-year-old woman who wandered from her adult day care facility Tuesday is home safe with her parents. Her mom doesn't blame the day care, but rather a situation that forced her to send her daughter to a new place.

Kate Collins is energetic and curious. She keeps her parents busy, especially on a day like Tuesday.

Gail Collins is Kate's mom. "I got a call from Katie's day care center that she had wandered away. They were in a panic."

It was Kate's first day at the adult day care center in Loris. She was last seen before 2:00pm Tuesday afternoon on the front porch. Police and around 200 people looked for Katie for hours.

It's a difficult search when you can't just shout for the person and expect them to answer.

"A special needs child, one who is deaf, who cannot communicate with people. A child who has not been able to learn her phone number or learn how to call people her address," Kate's mom explained.

Searchers went home at midnight and planned to start again Wednesday morning, however Katie came back first. "About 7:00 am, she appeared next door to the day care center, trying to find her way back apparently having spent the night in the very building next door."

Gail Collins said the reason Katie was at the Loris center was because Medicaid wouldn't pay for Katie to continue at the Conway center she was attending. It was too close to their home.

"In order for Medicaid to pay for her transportation costs she must attend a facility 15 or more miles away from her home," explained Kate's mom.

Despite the financial burden, Gail said Katie will go back to her Conway day care on Friday. Katie's parents said she was back to her usual self pretty quickly.

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943-267-1879
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

From: Jan Polatty
To: Deirdra Singleton
Subject: Re: Gail Collins

Log # 114

Book in report and put w/ make note on

I'll put make a note on Brenda's log sheet so that we are certain Susan is copied! Thanks, Jan :o) 1/26/08

>>> Deirdra Singleton 08/30/07 4:14 PM >>>
Pls make sure to copy Susan Duncan on our response to Ms. Collins letters regarding transportation for her daughter. I believe we have several legislative inquiries about this also. The Gov. Office received a letter as well and Susan wants to get copied on our response. thanks

Deirdra T. Singleton
Deputy Director/General Counsel
Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803)898-2795
(803)255-8210 fax

that was S. Duncan

make sure it's copied? Jan 8/24



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

114

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

September 10, 2007

The Honorable John M. Knotts, Jr.
The Senate of South Carolina
Senatorial District 23
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Knotts:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Ms. Gail Collins and the concerns she noted regarding policy involving Adult Day Care (ADC) and Medicaid transportation. We regret this unfortunate incident with Katie Collins and appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance in this matter.

As you know, South Carolina's Medicaid Program is operated on the basis of policies that are promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). SCDHHS uses policies rather than state laws to manage beneficiary healthcare resources. Adult Day Care (ADC) centers contract with SCDHHS to provide services that include transportation that is limited to ADC beneficiaries living within a 15 mile radius of the center. Since this transportation is a component of the ADC service, a center may elect to subcontract transportation services with a transportation provider(s) of their choice. However, when a beneficiary lives outside the 15 mile radius, a regional Medicaid transportation broker is responsible for transportation to the ADC center.

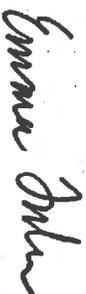
It was not the intention of the 15 mile rule to place an undue burden on families, and we are troubled by recent reports that this provision has apparently motivated at least one family to change from a preferred facility to one much further from their home. You may be pleased to know we are convening a meeting of interested parties next week (September 11) with the express goal of ameliorating problems this rule may have caused. I will update you as soon as we come to an agreeable solution. In the interim, Logisticare, the transportation broker for Ms. Collins' region of the state, is providing transportation for Ms. Collins to the ADC that she has been attending in the past.

The Honorable John M. Knotts, Jr.
September 10, 2007
Page 2

SCDHHS is continuously reviewing feedback received from citizens and beneficiaries regarding recent changes in the way Medicaid services are arranged and provided. Thank you for your valuable feedback; it is an important step towards improvements to Medicaid services.

Thank you again for your interest in the Medicaid program and support of beneficiary transportation services. If you need additional information, please contact, Ms. Felicity Costin Myers, Bureau Chief at (803) 898-2565. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Emma Forkner
Director

EF/ hmc



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

September 10, 2007

The Honorable Jimmy C. Bales, Ed.D.
South Carolina House of Representatives
South Carolina House District 80
1515 Crossing Creek Road
Eastover, South Carolina 29044

Dear Representative Bales:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Ms. Gail Collins and the concerns she noted regarding policy involving Adult Day Care (ADC) and Medicaid transportation. We regret this unfortunate incident with Katie Collins and appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance in this matter.

As you know, South Carolina's Medicaid Program is operated on the basis of policies that are promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). SCDHHS uses policies rather than state laws to manage beneficiary healthcare resources. Adult Day Care (ADC) centers contract with SCDHHS to provide services that include transportation that is limited to ADC beneficiaries living within a 15 mile radius of the center. Since this transportation is a component of the ADC service, a center may elect to subcontract transportation services with a transportation provider(s) of their choice. However, when a beneficiary lives outside the 15 mile radius, a regional Medicaid transportation broker is responsible for transportation to the ADC center.

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The Honorable Jimmy C. Bales, Ed.D.
September 10, 2007
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Sincerely,



Emma Forkner
Director

EF/hmc



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

#114

Mark Sanford
Governor

September 10, 2007

Emma Forkner
Director

Ms. Gail Collins
6091 Renata Lane
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

Dear Ms. Collins:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding policy involving Adult Day Care (ADC) and Medicaid transportation. We regret the unfortunate incident with your daughter, Katie, and appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance in this matter.

As you know, South Carolina's Medicaid program is operated on the basis of policies that are promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). SCDHHS uses policies rather than state laws to manage beneficiary healthcare resources. ADC centers contract with SCDHHS to provide services that include transportation that is limited to ADC beneficiaries living within a 15 mile radius of the center. Since this transportation is a component of the ADC service, a center may elect to subcontract transportation services with a transportation provider(s) of their choice. However, when a beneficiary lives outside the 15 mile radius, a regional Medicaid transportation broker is responsible for transportation to the ADC center.

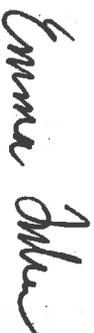
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Ms. Gail Collins
September 10, 2007
Page 2

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Sincerely,



Emma Forkner
Director

EF/hmc

SCDHHS AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION

Client Name: Katrina G. Collins Date of Birth: 8-23-82

Record #: Gail Collins Client SS #: 250 51 9667

I Gail Collins hereby authorize

SSC Dept. of Health & Human Services to disclose specific health information from the records of the above named client to: Dimmy G. Gales - District #80;

John M. 'Jake' Knott, Jr. - Senate District 23

Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. - Senate District 3

Syson Duncan - Office of the Governor

of replying to correspondence regarding Medicaid law

Specific information to be disclosed: Medicaid services provided to Katrina G. Collins

I understand that this authorization will expire on the following date, event or condition: _____

I understand that if I fail to specify an expiration date or condition, this authorization is valid for the period of time needed to fulfill its purpose for up to one year, except for disclosures for financial transactions, wherein the authorization is valid indefinitely. I also understand that I may revoke this authorization at any time and that I will be asked to sign the Revocation Section on the back of this form. I further understand that any action taken on this authorization prior to the rescinded date is legal and binding.

I understand that refusal to sign this authorization will not condition or limit my access to treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility for benefits available to me.

I understand that my information may not be protected from re-disclosure by the requester of the information; however, if this information is protected by the Federal Substance Abuse Confidentiality Regulations, the recipient may not re-disclose such information without my further written authorization unless otherwise provided for by state or federal law.

I further understand that I may request a copy of this signed authorization.

Katrina Collins 9-8-07 Jae Lee
(Signature of Client) by (Date) (Witness-If Required)

Gail Collins 9-8-07 mother
(Signature of Personal Representative) (Date) (Personal Representative Relationship/Authority)

NOTE: This Authorization was revoked on _____ (Date) _____ (Signature of Staff)

* I authorize only SC attorney or representative authorized by me on Aug 16, 2007 to receive information from DHHHS regarding Katrina Collins. Dini O Williams

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

See Log # 0114

TO <i>Bowling / Myers</i>	DATE <i>8 - 29 - 07</i>
------------------------------	----------------------------

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000122	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <u>9-5-07</u>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>[Signature]</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
<i>[Signature]</i> <i>Dep's. Quinn</i> <i>Stensland</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action DATE DUE _____
<i>* Note same commitment as log # 000114</i>	

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1. <i>Cleared 9/10/07, letter attached</i>			
2.			
3.			
4.			



HUGH K. LEATHERMAN, SR.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE SENATE
DISTRICT 31, FLORENCE
AND DARLINGTON COUNTIES

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COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

(803) 212-6640

August 24, 2007

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1817 Pineland Avenue
Florence, South Carolina 29501
(843) 667-1152

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Chairman, Operations and Management

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Labor, Commerce and Industry
Ethics
Rules
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Transportation

*Done - 8/29
refer this to
Purina long-term*

Emma Forkner, Director
Department of Health & Human Services
1801 Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Ms. Forkner:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter that I recently received from Gail Collins, whose daughter, Katie, is physically and mentally handicapped. As you can see, Katie has attended Atlantic Health Care for the past three years. It seems ludicrous to me that Katie will have to transfer to a new center, a move which will disrupt her life and will also result in increased Medicaid expenses.

I would very much appreciate your looking into this to determine how it can best be corrected.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.

Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
HKL:dsm

Enclosure
cc: Ms. Gail Collins

13-co/1

RECEIVED

AUG 29 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

6091 Renata Lane

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

August 13, 2007

The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.

Post Office Box 142

Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Leatherman,

My name is Gail Collins. My husband John and I have lived in Horry County all our lives where he works as a mechanic for a rental company and I teach language arts at Forestbrook Middle School. We have raised two sons and one daughter in the Socastee community and have seen tremendous growth and change in the area over the last several decades.

I am writing in reference to a great injustice that is being done to the disabled and elderly population of our state. It is highly probable that you and others in similar positions are not aware of this situation; as a fellow South Carolinian, I feel certain that when it is brought to your attention, steps will be taken to correct this unfairness.

Many elderly and handicapped South Carolinians must depend on our Medicaid system for assistance with medical and transportation needs. My own twenty-five year old daughter is physically and mentally handicapped, and although I have managed to maintain Blue Cross Blue Shield coverage for her through my job, Medicaid also helps with the great expenses that are a part of caring for a special-needs person. One area of great expense is her day care costs while I am working during the school year. Since graduating from the South Carolina School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multihandicapped in 2004, Katie has attended Atlantic Health Care, a fine adult day care facility located in Conway. CRPTA provides transportation, picking up Katie at home in the morning and returning her to me at Forestbrook Middle School in the afternoon, and therein lies the problem.

According to CRPTA's calculations, Katie lives 13.7 miles from the day care facility. A clause in the Medicaid law states that Medicaid will pay transportation costs only for persons who live 15 or more miles from the provider. The day care provider enters into a contract with Medicaid agreeing that they will pay for or provide transportation for persons who live within a 15 mile radius of the day care center. Part of the agreement is that the provider will use a portion of the forty-five dollar per diem rate that they receive for a Medicaid client to provide this service. At some time in the past this may have been a workable concept; Atlantic Health Care has been in business for approximately sixteen years, so the owners apparently have been able to provide their services for both Medicaid and non-Medicaid clients, despite the discriminatory nature of this law. After all, it only seems fair that all individuals who qualify for Medicaid services should receive the same services with no stipulations.

In addition to the unfairness of this part of the law, it creates a financial impossibility for those who operate the facilities. For example, Katie lives just over thirteen miles from the day care center, but she rides a circuitous route as the bus picks up other clients so the transportation provider bills the day care provider for every mile that she is on the bus which is far more than 13.7. Of course, costs for the transportation company are rising, so recently their rates increased as well; the new proposed rate to transport Katie to and from day care is just over \$43.00 (forty-three dollars) daily. Of course, one need not be a mathematician to quickly figure out that the day care provider cannot possibly pay workers to care for Katie, serve a nutritious lunch, and organize suitable activities for two dollars a day. It is preposterous to even propose this to the day care center. Yes, they entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services, but obviously this contract is no longer viable for the day care center and certainly not for the needy citizens of South Carolina.

The owner of Atlantic Health Care also owns a facility in Loris, South Carolina, which is sixteen miles from Conway. As I prepare to begin a new school year, the only solution we could find to this problem is to bus Katie and five other special needs clients this additional sixteen miles to a totally new center with completely new caregivers. Aside from the emotional turmoil this creates for my daughter, it doesn't strike me as a cost-effective answer to the problem. Is it logical to spend more Medicaid money to transport Katie to Loris when it would cost less for Medicaid to pay for her to simply stay where she is?

This law must be reviewed and revised. Perhaps at one time it worked for all involved, including DHHS, the day care providers, and the vulnerable people that it affects. Perhaps even now the concept "looks good on paper." However, it is no longer working for the people of our great state. These are not all mentally or physically disabled individuals. Some of them are elderly people who worked hard all their lives, paid their taxes, lived decent lives, and who now need a secure place to be while their families continue that tradition. Perhaps their families use day care as an alternative to nursing home placement, but if those day care providers cannot operate in the black, the doors will be closing and then where will the fine people of South Carolina turn?

I am asking you to investigate this great injustice. There should not be "conditions" that recipients must meet in order to receive the same benefit that the person sitting beside them on the bus receives. Medicaid benefits must be fair and equitable to all who qualify. I hope to hear from you soon regarding this matter. You may contact me at my home phone 843-236-7155 or my cell phone 843-421-2155 after school hours, or you may e-mail me at mrsjgc@msn.com.

Sincerely,



Gail Collins

Addendum to letter dated August 13, 2007

August 16, 2007

Please note the attached news report about Katie's disappearance from the Loris facility on Tuesday, August 14. It was her first day at the center, and she was gone approximately 19 hours. It was a night of absolute horror for me and my family that would not have happened if we had not transferred her from the Conway center. We thank God that she survived the ordeal.

I ask you to please remember that Medicaid policy is not just about numbers and funds. It affects real people who are just like you and me.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Collins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Gail Collins



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News Channel 15 abc news

Missing woman back home with family

04/26/07 6:33:37 PM

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Gail Collins is Katie's mom. "I got a call from Katie's day care center that she had wandered away. They were in a panic."

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State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

122

A large handwritten checkmark in the bottom right corner of the page.

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

September 10, 2007

The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
The Senate of South Carolina
Senatorial District 31
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Leatherman:

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The Honorable Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
September 10, 2007
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/hmc



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

September 10, 2007

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Fortner
Director

Ms. Gail Collins
6091 Renata Lane
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

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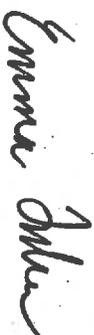
Ms. Gail Collins

September 10, 2007

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Sincerely,



Emma Forkner
Director

EF/hmc

SCDHHS AUTHORIZATION TO DISCLOSE HEALTH INFORMATION

Client Name: Katrina G. Collins Date of Birth: 8-23-82

Record #: 1 Gail Collins Client SS #: 250 51 9667
\$1 hereby authorize

SC Dept. of Health & Human Services to disclose specific health information
(Name of Provider/Plan/Agency)

from the records of the above named client to: Timmy G. Boles - District #80;
(Recipient Name/Address/Phone/Fax)

John M. 'Jake' Knott, Jr. - Senate District 23

Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr. - Senate District 3

for the specific purpose(s): Duncan - Office of the Governor

of replying to correspondence regarding Medicaid law

Specific information to be disclosed: Medicaid services provided to Katrina G. Collins

I understand that this authorization will expire on the following date, event or condition: _____

I understand that if I fail to specify an expiration date or condition, this authorization is valid for the period of time needed to fulfill its purpose for up to one year, except for disclosures for financial transactions, wherein the authorization is valid indefinitely. I also understand that I may revoke this authorization at any time and that I will be asked to sign the Revocation Section on the back of this form. I further understand that any action taken on this authorization prior to the rescinded date is legal and binding.

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I understand that my information may not be protected from re-disclosure by the requester of the information; however, if this information is protected by the Federal Substance Abuse Confidentiality Regulations, the recipient may not re-disclose such information without my further written authorization unless otherwise provided for by state or federal law.

I further understand that I may request a copy of this signed authorization:
Katrina Collins 9-8-07 Jule Lee
(Signature of Client) by (Date) (Witness - If Required)

Gail Collins 9-8-07 mother
(Signature of Personal Representative) (Date) (Personal Representative Relationship/Authority)

NOTE: This Authorization was revoked on _____ (Date) _____ (Signature of Staff)

* I authorize my SC agent or representative who contacted me on Aug. 16, 2007 to request information from DHHS regarding Katrina Collins. Jule Lee

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>9-27-07</i>
--------------------	------------------------

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000168	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>10-4-07</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 10/4/07, after a check.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <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.			

Alan D. Clemmons
District No. 107 - Horry County
610 18th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577



Kellogg 114
172

518-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211
Tel. (803) 734-2994
clemmons@scstatehouse.net

Committees:

Judiciary, 2nd Vice Chairman
Special Laws
Sub-Committee

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

September 24, 2007



S.C. 1-73 Assn., Chairman
Majority Caucus, Treasurer

SEP 27 2007

Emma Forkner, Director
SC Dept. Of Health & Human Services
PO Box 8206
Columbia SC 29202

Wage Felicity
Dei Mgr

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Director Forkner:

Please find enclosed a copy of correspondence received from Myrtle Beach residents Gail Collins and Marcia Williamson. As you read the letter I am sure that you will be as shocked as I am in the senselessness to require a disable citizen to change day care service, at greater expense both fiscally and emotionally, because she resided "too close" to her caregiver. The regulation that resulted in this tragedy seems to me to be nonsensical.

I would like your help in resolving this situation for Katie as well as in preventing a future occurrence of this nature for other disabled citizens of South Carolina.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Kindly forward a copy of your correspondence to Ms. Collins and Ms. Williamson.

Thank you for your assistance,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan D. Clemmons".

Alan D. Clemmons



adc/disabntfedcitz.wpd

cc: Marcia Williamson
Gail Collins

August 27, 2007

Marcia Williamson
705 Rose Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
843-293-8038

SC State Rep. Alan D. Clemmons
518 A. Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear State Representative Clemmons:

This is a plea for HELP in behalf of good friends of ours living here in the Myrtle Beach area. I am enclosing a copy of her letter written by Gail Collins, which has been sent to many of our South Carolina dignitaries. Her letter is to the point, as she knows and understands the Medicaid system. This letter from me, however, is just to let you know how much this transaction on transporting Katie to Loris has upset the whole apple cart!!!

I have seen Katie grow from a baby into a sweet young lady who adjusts well to regular routines. She has been enrolled in the Conway Adult Day Care facility for over two years now. Gail recently stated how things are finally becoming somewhat "normal" for their family, as Katie's entire life has been such a challenge every day for them.

Two weeks ago, a nightmare come-true occurred. Katie was sent to Loris for her first day. She was confused and became agitated when the bus went to the Conway site first and she was not permitted to get off. She had to remain on the bus to Loris (a straight shot from her house is a 45 minute drive!) That afternoon, while Katie was on the porch of the center, somehow she just up and disappeared! There was a search party organized that night, and we were there to help. I have never been so worried in my life, and to watch her parents and family go through this ordeal was devastating! Thank God, someone found Katie in the morning light, and she is now home, safe and sound.

Please, please, please If you could see this young girl and know the entire situation, providing funds to pay for the distance of less than 2 miles to keep her in Conway is just an absolute necessity. This family has done a remarkable job raising Katie and it's such an injustice to all of them to have to bus her to Loris.

I am begging you to please read Gail's enclosed letter. She was actually composing this letter while Katie was at the day care in Loris her first day!!! (mother's intuition) Please, whatever help you can give this family will be so very appreciated. I can't tell you how much it means to them and to all of us who love them and especially on Katie's behalf.

With sincere hope and appreciation,



Marcia Williamson

Enclosures

6091 Renata Lane

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29588

August 13, 2007

The Honorable Fletcher N. Smith, Jr.

Post Office Box 11867

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Smith,

My name is Gail Collins. My husband John and I have lived in Horry County all our lives where he works as a mechanic for a rental company and I teach language arts at Forestbrook Middle School. We have raised two sons and one daughter in the Socastee community and have seen tremendous growth and change in the area over the last several decades.

I am writing in reference to a great injustice that is being done to the disabled and elderly population of our state. It is highly probable that you and others in similar positions are not aware of this situation; as a fellow South Carolinian, I feel certain that when it is brought to your attention, steps will be taken to correct this unfairness.

Many elderly and handicapped South Carolinians must depend on our Medicaid system for assistance with medical and transportation needs. My own twenty-five year old daughter is physically and mentally handicapped, and although I have managed to maintain Blue Cross Blue Shield coverage for her through my job, Medicaid also helps with the great expenses that are a part of caring for a special-needs person. One area of great expense is her day care costs while I am working during the school year. Since graduating from the South Carolina School for the Deaf, Blind, and Multihandicapped in 2004, Katie has attended Atlantic Health Care, a fine adult day care facility located in Conway. CRPTA provides transportation, picking up Katie at home in the morning and returning her to me at Forestbrook Middle School in the afternoon, and therein lies the problem.

According to CRPTA's calculations, Katie lives 13.7 miles from the day care facility. A clause in the Medicaid law states that Medicaid will pay transportation costs only for persons who live 15 or more miles from the provider. The day care provider enters into a contract with Medicaid agreeing that they will pay for or provide transportation for persons who live within a 15 mile radius of the day care center. Part of the agreement is that the provider will use a portion of the forty-five dollar per diem rate that they receive for a Medicaid client to provide this service. At some time in the past this may have been a workable concept; Atlantic Health Care has been in business for approximately sixteen years, so the owners apparently have been able to provide their services for both Medicaid and non-Medicaid clients, despite the discriminatory nature of this law. After all, it only seems fair that all individuals who qualify for Medicaid services should receive the same services with no stipulations.

In addition to the unfairness of this part of the law, it creates a financial impossibility for those who operate the facilities. For example, Katie lives just over thirteen miles from the day care center, but she rides a circuitous route as the bus picks up other clients so the transportation provider bills the day care provider for every mile that she is on the bus which is far more than 13.7. Of course, costs for the transportation company are rising, so recently their rates increased as well; the new proposed rate to transport Katie to and from day care is just over \$43.00 (forty-three dollars) daily. Of course, one need not be a mathematician to quickly figure out that the day care provider cannot possibly pay workers to care for Katie, serve a nutritious lunch, and organize suitable activities for two dollars a day. It is preposterous to even propose this to the day care center. Yes, they entered into a contract with the Department of Health and Human Services, but obviously this contract is no longer viable for the day care center and certainly not for the needy citizens of South Carolina.

The owner of Atlantic Health Care also owns a facility in Loris, South Carolina, which is sixteen miles from Conway. As I prepare to begin a new school year, the only solution we could find to this problem is to bus Katie and five other special needs clients this additional sixteen miles to a totally new center with completely new caregivers. Aside from the emotional turmoil this creates for my daughter, it doesn't strike me as a cost-effective answer to the problem. Is it logical to spend more Medicaid money to transport Katie to Loris when it would cost less for Medicaid to pay for her to simply stay where she is?

This law must be reviewed and revised. Perhaps at one time it worked for all involved, including DHHS, the day care providers, and the vulnerable people that it affects. Perhaps even now the concept "looks good on paper." However, it is no longer working for the people of our great state. These are not all mentally or physically disabled individuals. Some of them are elderly people who worked hard all their lives, paid their taxes, lived decent lives, and who now need a secure place to be while their families continue that tradition. Perhaps their families use day care as an alternative to nursing home placement, but if those day care providers cannot operate in the black, the doors will be closing and then where will the fine people of South Carolina turn?

I am asking you to investigate this great injustice. There should not be "conditions" that recipients must meet in order to receive the same benefit that the person sitting beside them on the bus receives. Medicaid benefits must be fair and equitable to all who qualify. I hope to hear from you soon regarding this matter. You may contact me at my home phone 843-236-7155 or my cell phone 843-421-2155 after school hours, or you may e-mail me at mrsgcc@msn.com.

Sincerely,

Gail Collins



[Back to web version](#)

Posted on Thu, Aug. 16, 2007

Missing young woman found at local bank

By Jonathan Tressler
The Sun News

A missing 24-year-old woman was found Wednesday morning not far from the spot where she disappeared Tuesday afternoon.

A passing motorist spotted Katrina "Katie" Collins at Anderson Brothers Bank about 7 a.m., Loris police Chief Herbert Blake said.

The bank is next door to Loris Adult Daycare Services, located at 3701 Main St. in Loris, where she was last seen Tuesday.

Collins was dirty and paint covered her clothes, but she looked unharmed, Blake said. Emergency personnel checked her out after she was found. Police say it's possible that Collins was in the area the entire time.

"We really don't know for sure," Blake said.

Police, fire and volunteers combed Loris and its outskirts for more than 12 hours Tuesday.

Police said a representative from the adult day care reported Collins missing around 2:05 p.m. Blake said she had been missing about 30 minutes before the report, during which time workers from the agency looked for her briefly, before notifying police.

Collins was last seen outside the adult day care facility, where she was a client, Blake said.

He said officials from the agency reported that she had been transferred to the Loris facility from another similar location Tuesday, which he said was her first time at Loris Adult Daycare.

A bus driver did bring her to Loris, police confirmed, and she was assisted into the building around 9:30 a.m., Blake said. A worker at the facility reported seeing her on the porch, then didn't see her, Blake said.

Tuesday's search was conducted using bloodhounds from the Horry County Police Department, a helicopter from the State Law Enforcement Division, in addition to volunteers from Loris Police Department, Horry County Police Department, fire rescue officials from Loris and Horry County and several residents from the community.

Contact JONATHAN TRESSLER at 444-1723 or jtresler@thesunnews.com.

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SC State Senator Luke A. Rankin
508 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29202

SC State Senator Raymond E. Cleary III
501 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29202

SC State Senator Dick Elliott
601 Gressette Building
Columbia, SC 29202

SC State Rep. Liston D. Barfield
320 B. Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

SC State Rep. Thad T. Viers
434 C. Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

SC State Rep. Tracy R. Edge
503 B. Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

SC State Rep. William D. Witherspoon
411 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

SC State Rep. Nelson L. Hardwick
320 C. Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

SC State Rep. Alan D. Clemmons
518 A. Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211

**** My letter and enclosures were sent to all of the above. Thank you.**



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

October 4, 2007

The Honorable Alan D. Clemmons
Member, House of Representative
District No. 107 - Horry County
610 18th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577

Dear Representative Clemmons:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of Mrs. Gail Collins and the concerns she noted regarding policy involving Adult Day Care (ADC) and Medicaid transportation. We regret this unfortunate incident with Katie Collins and appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance in this matter.

As you know, South Carolina's Medicaid Program is operated on the basis of policies that are promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). SCDHHS uses policies rather than state laws to manage beneficiary healthcare resources. ADC centers contract with SCDHHS to provide services that include transportation that is limited to ADC beneficiaries living within a 15-mile radius of the center. Since this transportation is a component of the ADC service, a center may elect to subcontract transportation services with a transportation provider(s) of their choice. However, when a beneficiary lives outside the 15 mile radius, a regional Medicaid transportation broker is responsible for transportation to the ADC center.

It was not the intention of the 15 mile rule to place an undue burden in families, and we are troubled by recent reports that this provision has apparently motivated at least one family to change from a preferred facility to one much further from their home. We convened a meeting of interested parties on September 11, 2007, with the express goal of ameliorating problems this rule may have caused. I will update you as soon as we come to an agreement solution. In the interim, Logisticare, the transportation Broker for Ms. Collins' region of the state, is providing transportation for Ms. Collins to the ADC that she has been attending in the past.

#168 ✓

The Honorable Alan D. Clemmons

October 4, 2007

Page 2

SCDHHS is continuously reviewing feedback received from citizens and beneficiaries regarding recent changes in the way Medicaid services are arranged and provided. Thank you for your valuable feedback; it is an important step towards improvements to Medicaid services.

Thank you again for your interest in the Medicaid program and support of beneficiary transportation services. If you need additional information, please contact Felicity Myers, Ph.D., Deputy Director at (803) 898-2501. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mhw

cc: Ms. Marcia Williamson
Ms. Gail Collins