

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Medical Services/Waldrep	2-3-11

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 100338	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleared 2/11/11, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <u>2-14-11</u>
	<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.			

DEENA WATT

306 Salem Drive
Ladson, South Carolina 29456
Phone (843) 276-2218
JacksMom@gmail.com

January 31, 2011

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2011

Director
Mr. Tony Keck
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Keck:

I am deeply concerned about the severe Medicaid cuts that have been planned against our children with disabilities. As a mother of a 6 year old Autistic boy, I earnestly ask for your reconsideration of these plans.

I understand we must all work together in this economy and I realize we will all be impacted by some form of redirection of funds. However, I cannot imagine how anyone can reduce a child's necessity to learn by more than 50%. As President Obama said in his State of the Union Address: *"I recognize that some in this chamber have already proposed deeper cuts, and I'm willing to eliminate whatever we can honestly afford to do without. But let's make sure that we're not doing it on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens."*

As I listen to my son playing in the other room, I wonder if he'll ever be able to communicate without his speech therapy. He is a bright little boy, who is trapped in a place we cannot even fathom. Imagine waking up every day in a different place and wondering what will happen. That is what my son goes through on a regular basis. He cannot communicate yet, his only hope of accomplishing that is through speech therapy. He cannot chew food or drink through a straw. His only hope of accomplishing that is through occupational therapy. He cannot ride a bike or throw a ball. His only hope of accomplishing that is through physical therapy.

The cuts that are going into effect April 1, 2011 will force me to pick what disability he gets help with and which one he doesn't. I want my son to be able to ask me for something as simple as a cookie. But I also want him to be able to eat it!

I solicit your position in our State to find an alternate way for our children to learn and grow with their disability by reducing the arduous cuts set before us. What can we do as concerned parents, teachers, and citizens of our State to prevent such a tragic event that will take away our children's only chance of succeeding in our society?

Sincerely,



Deena Watt

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FEB 03 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



Jackson's Story

Hi,

My name is Jackson. I am 6 years old. I'd like to talk to you for a few minutes about my condition and what the Medicaid cuts will do to me. But I can't talk. I am a non-verbal autistic child. My speech therapist, Mr. Bill, is working very hard to teach me alternative communication skills. We work once a week on the Picture Exchange System. I hope one day I will be able to tell him "thank you". I can't tell anyone when I have a tummy ache, or an earache; I cannot say when I am feeling ill; I cannot explain to anyone when I am afraid, angry, sad or lonely. I cannot tell my mom when I would rather have chocolate pudding instead of a fruit cup.

Speaking of fruit cups, I have to have mine blended because I can't chew food. I have never had a slice of cheese pizza, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, or my Aunt Kym's famous chocolate chip cookies. I have a sensory disorder that only an occupational therapist can help me with. Even small things, like washing my hands are very hard for me to process. Finger painting at school is my worst nightmare! I'd also like to color with a crayon or write with a No. 2 Pencil. But I won't accomplish that goal without my occupational therapist.

My physical therapist helps me with my core strength and balance. One day I hope to climb and play like some of the other kids. Once a week we meet and she teaches me to throw balls, climb stairs, and walk over and under obstacles. One day, I'll learn to use my arms and legs without being afraid. I may even learn to ride a bike, play baseball, or tie my shoes!

I hope one day to run up the steps of our State Capitol, cookies in hand, and say "thank you for giving me the opportunity to achieve my goals". As simple as they may be to you, they are everything to me. Please don't take away my chances to succeed. I have one shot for improvement, and it's right now.

Did I forget to mention, I love the alphabet and my numbers. I might be an editor one day for children's books, I might even be the author! I might be a junior equity analyst or an engineer. Without my therapies now, my possibilities become improbabilities.

The cuts for Medicaid are devastating for me. I'll have to choose between talking, chewing food, learning to write and using my body to it's fullest mobility. If you had to live without three of these skills for your life time, what would it be?

*For more information about my story, please email me at: JacksMom@gmx.com
January 26, 2011.*

Deena Watt
306 Salem Drive
Ladson, SC 29456

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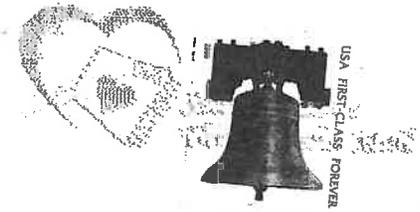
FEB 03 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Director
Mr. Tony Keck
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

CHARLESTON SC 294

02 FEB 2011 PM 1 T



29202+8206



DEENA WATT

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Phone (843) 276-2218
JacksMom@gmx.com

January 31, 2011

RECEIVED

FEB 03 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Ms. Felicity Myers
SC Medicaid
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Ms. Myers :

I am deeply concerned about the severe Medicaid cuts that have been planned against our children with disabilities. As a mother of a 6 year old Autistic boy, I earnestly ask for your reconsideration of these plans.

I understand we must all work together in this economy and I realize we will all be impacted by some form of redirection of funds. However, I cannot imagine how anyone can reduce a child's necessity to learn by more than 50%. As President Obama said in his State of the Union Address: *"I recognize that some in this chamber have already proposed deeper cuts, and I'm willing to eliminate whatever we can honestly afford to do without. But let's make sure that we're not doing it on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens."*

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Sincerely,



Deena Watt



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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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January 26, 2011.*



29201+2409

Ms. Felicity Myers
SC Medicaid
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FEB 09 2011

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USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER



CHARLESTON SC 29404
02 FEB 2011 PM 1 T

Dena Watt
306 Salem Drive
Ladson, SC 29456

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Clear

ACTION REFERRAL

Relogged from Waldrop to Platt on 2/9/11

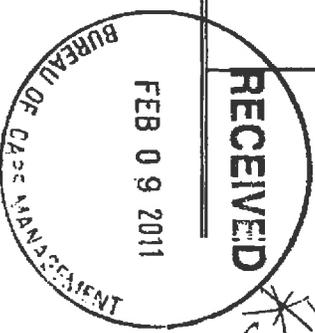
TO Medical Services/Platt DATE 2-3-11

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1.			<i>Not PDD Waldrop is absent</i>
2.			
3.			
4.			

*Waldrop PT
*Waldrop PT, per Sam W.
D, relay to Platt. 2/9/11*

FEB 09 2011
Division of Medical Support Services



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DEENA WATT

306 Salem Drive
Ladson, South Carolina 29456
Phone (843) 276-2218
JacksMount@igmx.com

January 31, 2011

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FEB 03 2011

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Director
Mr. Tony Keck
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

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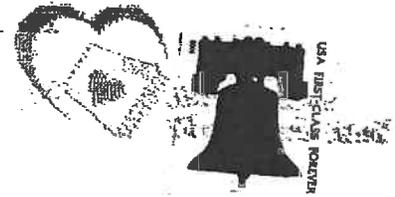
FEB 03 2011

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Director
Mr. Tony Keck
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

CHARLESTON SC 294

02 FEB 2011 PM 1 T



29202+8206





February 11, 2011

Ms. Deena Watt
306 Salem Drive
Ladson, South Carolina 29456

Dear Ms. Watt:

Thank you for your letter dated January 31, 2011, regarding your concerns on the 75 hours cap (300 units) for Private Rehabilitative Therapy Services. While South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) does regret having to place any limitations on service volume, there are times when it is necessary. We have determined that there are systems changes that will be required prior to our enforcing this limitation; therefore, the implementation date has been postponed until April 1, 2011. We will make every effort to clarify the rules associated with this change so that the enrolled private therapists can know and understand the requirements for coordination with each child's primary care physician. This information will be made available in a Medicaid Bulletin. All Medicaid Bulletins and Provider Manuals are located on the agency website, www.scdhhs.gov.

While these limits will be in place, as indicated in the Private Rehabilitative Therapy and Audiological Services Manual, on pages 2-4, "Payment for services that exceed frequency limitations must only be justified as a result of an Early and Periodic screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) examination, and pre-approved by SCDHHS." This policy remains unchanged; should a physician determine, through an EPSDT visit, that a child requires additional private therapy services, that physician should document the medical necessity and request additional visits. These requests must be made in writing. These requests must include an evaluation overview, proposed treatment plan with expected outcomes, relative progress notes, and anticipated units of services needed to address need(s). The documentation must indicate the diagnosis and/or functional impairment that establishes medical necessity, and must be signed by the child's physician. This documentation should be faxed to SCDHHS staff at 803-255-8222, Attention: Private Rehabilitative Therapy Services Authorization, prior to provision of the service. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in denial or recoupment of payment.

Again, we share the disappointment with you that any limitations are necessary. However, we will continue to work with you, physicians and therapists to ensure that services are made available for children in our state. If you have any additional questions, please contact Diane McLeod, Department Manager for Medical Support Services, at (803) 898-2655.

Sincerely,



Sheila B. Platts
Division Director

SBP/W