

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR



ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Forlmer/Quintin	10-22-08

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000220	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>OK to work</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <u>10-31-08</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. <i>Rendall</i> <i>Called @ 3:00</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>Rendall to</i>
2. <i>10/22/08 - [unclear]</i>	<i>✓</i>		<i>Call &amp; will close</i>
3. <i>know [unclear] [unclear]</i> <i>will [unclear] [unclear]</i>			<i>very email from</i>
4.			<i>Rendall.</i>

**From:** "Kristopher Crawford" <kcrawford@physicianspm.com>  
**To:** "Kendall F Quinton" <QUINTON@scdhhs.gov>  
**Date:** 10/21/2008 8:40 PM  
**Subject:** FW: State Budget Cuts  
**Attachments:** Letter to Legislator (letterhead).docx; Kristopher R Crawford.vcf  
Kendall,

Can someone reply or reach out to these folks? Backyard issue for me. The lady you need to talk to is **Cathy Saunders**. If you want to chat about budget issues etc. Give me a call. I will be in Cola Friday afternoon if we need to chat in person.

Kris Crawford, MD  
kcrawford@physicianspm.com

From: Kirby Jones [mailto:kirby@thecarehouse.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 12:29 PM  
To: CrawfordK@schouse.org  
Subject: State Budget Cuts

Please read the attached letter- Thank you!

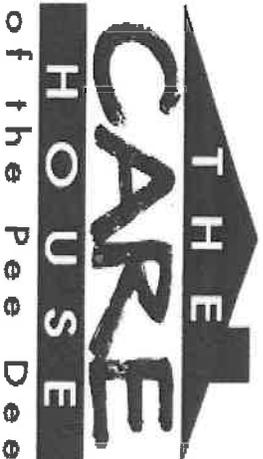
Kirby Jones  
The Care House  
1500 Patton Drive  
Florence, SC 29501  
Phone: 843-629-0236  
Fax: 843-673-9223  
Email: kirby@thecarehouse.com

Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom of the page, including a large signature that appears to be 'Kris Crawford' and several other initials and names.

Office (843) 629-0236

1500 Patton Drive

Fax (843) 673-9223



Florence, SC 29501

A House of Help, Hope and Healing

October 21, 2008

Representative Dr. Kristopher R. "Kris" Crawford  
District #63- Florence County  
327D Blatt Building  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Crawford:

Each year in South Carolina approximately 21,000 reports of child abuse or neglect are made. Research has shown that one out of three reports are indicated for abuse, and that child abuse is more prevalent than many common pediatric conditions. Child abuse presents in many forms and it is a difficult diagnosis to make. Medical providers need specialized training to evaluate these children properly and provide the best outcome for them. In 2003, the South Carolina Children's Hospital Collaborative and the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers began working together to address a critical shortage of child abuse medical providers in the state. Their efforts were successful, resulting in 3-year grant from The Duke Endowment. In 2007, funding was obtained from SC DHHS through a services contract with the USC Department of Pediatrics. It is our understanding that the funding for this contract, at \$ 1.3 million, has been targeted for reduction in the budget revision. {Funding for the program is included in the SC DHHS "medical contracts" line item on the budget revision.}

While we certainly appreciate the challenge of budget reductions, we want to convey to you the importance of this program. When it began in 2003, we were only able to meet 23% of the need for child abuse medical evaluations. At the end of 2007, we had managed to meet 43% of the need, and this has shown further improvement since the inception of the DHHS contract. But numbers don't tell the entire story and they certainly cannot describe the following accomplishments:

- Improved the access to care for children. By increasing the number of trained and qualified healthcare providers in Child Abuse Pediatrics across the state, we have been able to create a strong network to expand services and shorten the wait time for a quality medical assessment after a report of abuse has been made. This is particularly important for a couple of reasons. First, these medical services are an integral part of the multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis, intervention and management of child abuse. For a good majority of these children, these medical evaluations are pivotal to jumpstart the system that will keep them safe. On same token a medical evaluation done at the beginning of an investigation may determine there is no indication for abuse, keeping

families together and saving SC DSS and law enforcement significant dollars in investigation costs. Secondly, the findings from a child abuse medical exam are legal evidence, and, for obvious reasons, this evidence should be documented as soon as possible.

- Improved the quality of services being provided. Improving quality has many benefits:
  - Fewer cases are being missed and fewer cases are being misdiagnosed.
  - Children get state of the art standard of care. They also receive follow-up and counseling services they may need to improve their physical and mental well-being and facilitate their healing process.
  - SC DSS and law enforcement can conduct more efficient investigations
  - Prosecution receives better evidence to enhance outcomes

The funding we have received from SC DHHS has allowed us to expand services and continue improving the services we provide to these vulnerable children. At \$1.3 million, it is not a huge item in the budget for SC DHHS. But it has a huge impact on the lives of many children, and it is so desperately needed. Please preserve funding for the South Carolina Child Abuse Medical Response program. {SC DHHS proviso 21.33 FY 2008-2009 Appropriations Act}.

The CARE House of the Pee Dee serves many maltreated children who reside in your jurisdiction. Please help us continue to provide services to one of our communities' most vulnerable population, our children.

Thank you,

**Anita L. Throwe**

**Anita L. Throwe, RN, MS, CS**

**Director**

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