


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Meyer</i>	DATE <i>6-23-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>100700</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Ms. Ferluga</i> 		<input checked="" 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.			

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 20, 2009

Eugene A. Laurent, Ph.D.
State Director
SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
PO Box 4706
Columbia, SC 29240

Dr. Laurent:

I am the parent of William Hickson, a special needs child who suffers from mitochondrial disease. William receives services provided by the Medicaid waiver program managed by SC DDSN. We recently learned that there are pending changes potentially forthcoming to limit some of the services for children under the waiver program, such as William. As I understand it, there are some limitations pertaining to environmental modifications (home ramps, etc.), specialized equipment (such as limitations on wheelchair purchases), and other changes. Also, it is my understanding that there are proposed eliminations of rehab therapies (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and others).

I, too, am in the healthcare business and understand the pressures you and your colleagues are facing in the midst of this economic recession and the national pressures on our healthcare system at-large. However, I would strongly encourage you to attempt to maintain the rehabilitative therapies as part of your program. These services, in my opinion, are some of the most important provided by the waiver program. Clinical care, among all other services, is core to the treatment of children with special needs. There may be other methods for parents to seek in obtaining environmental modifications, for example, but not necessarily so for the clinical care components of the waiver program. Therefore, I am writing to request that you work diligently to protect these services specifically.

If I can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at home (803.708.0557) or via cell (803.807.8793). Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Stan Hickson

Cc: Emma Forkner, Director, SC Department of Health and Human Services