

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

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| TO <i>Myers</i> | DATE <i>4-26-10</i> |
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| DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY | ACTION REQUESTED |
|---|---|
| 1. LOC NUMBER <i>000431</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ |
| 2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Ce. Post</i> <i>cleared 5/20/10, letter</i> <i>attached.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>5-5-10</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 |
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April 22, 2010

RECEIVED

APR 26 2010

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

U.S. Representative
The Honorable John M. Spratt, Jr.
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202

Dear Representative Spratt,

Terry Helms II is my 32 year old mentally challenged son which lives with me, Patsy Helms. It has been a very difficult life for me raising two kids on my own with one having special needs such as Terry.

Let me tell you a little bit about my son Terry. He was always in EMH classes in school. He did graduate at the age of 21 with a certificate. I was so proud that Terry got to walk across the stage with his class of 1998 regardless that he received a certificate and not a diploma. Terry worked so hard to be able to do something that "normal" kids got to do. I was clapping, smiling, yelling, and crying all at the same time as my first child walked across that stage.

After Terry walked the stage, he stayed at home with me. As a mother, it's very difficult to see your child want to be able to do what "normal" people do and having to tell him that he isn't able. Terry has a very short attention span. He cannot read or write very well. He is unable to drive. He is very limited on the things he can do to occupy his time. I thought I had finally found help when I found a rehab workshop in Rock Hill, SC to teach Terry a trade. They told me that he needed a job coach and unfortunately they were not able to provide that for Terry. So the search for help was still on.

Finally Terry's case worker and I found him a club house in September 1998 which Terry went to until July 2006 when the club house was closed. Cindy Lee (intake coordinator) told me that Terry would be eligible for services provided by the state, as of October 31, 2006. Nothing was found for Terry for 3 years. Terry's case worker and I got him into a workshop at York County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs in August, 2009.

Terry needs special help with anger management as well as independency. He has been very abusive to me at times including hitting, kicking and throwing things. Terry does see a mental health doctor in Rock Hill. He depends on me for everything every day. From waking him up in the morning and assisting him with his personal hygiene to giving him his medicines and making sure he goes to bed. I have and still do it all on my own. The only out he gets away from me is the workshop which is good for the both of us.

I've tried to get one on one help through York County Board of Disabilities for Terry, but that was not provided to me until March 2010. There must have been some lack of communication somewhere. I was very specific in the fact that Terry needed a male that was preferably older than him. Terry was offered by The Board to have one on one with a female to work with him. I

had to turn that down as Terry did not need a female figure since that is all he has in his life, me. No one contacted me for a while until March 2010. Now, they are telling me that Terry has no funding to continue after July. He has now been put on a waiting list for this service at the workshop and he is number 1,834 as of January 2010. Terry has Medicaid and Medicare. And now this Medicaid waiver has come into effect. They are trying to deny Terry because he did not use any services, yet no services were offered to him.

This can affect Terry for the rest of his life. Terry really needs this workshop for his well being. He needs to be more independent, be around other people besides me, and learn all he can for his future. This is the only help he gets through this state. I want him to be able to survive after I'm gone as people do not live forever.

I do not understand how someone as powerful as you can allow this mentally challenged person to not have some help in learning more about life and to become more independent. Terry is willing to learn and he can learn, just very slowly. How can anyone turn their back on someone in need? I am not asking for him to be provided housing as long as I am able to take care of him. I am asking for your help to allow him to go to this workshop to learn. I don't have the heart to tell him that yet again another thing he enjoys doing is being taken away from him because there is no funding available. Someone somewhere made a mistake and my handicapped son is going to be without help after July. With your help he may be able to stay where he is with the Medicaid waiver plan. Please help us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patsy Helms".

Patsy Helms

On behalf of Terry Helms II
1150 Cameron Rd.
York, SC 29745



Log #431 ✓

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

May 20, 2010

Ms. Patsy Helms
1150 Cameron Road
York, South Carolina 29745

Re: Terry Helms II

Dear Ms. Helms:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding your son, Terry. My staff called the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) to inquire about your concerns and was informed they received the same correspondence from Senator Robert Hayes's office. SCDDSN is researching your son's case file and is preparing a response to your letter. We will review their findings for consistency with Medicaid policy.

In the interim, we encourage you to maintain close contact with Terry's service coordinator at the York County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs. Thank you for your efforts to advocate on behalf of your son.

Sincerely,

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

Emma Forkner,
Director

cc: Beverly Buscemi, Ph.D., SCDDSN