

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

**ACTION REFERRAL**

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>5-22-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER  <i>000607</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature  DATE DUE _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature  DATE DUE <i>6-2-08</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA  DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR  <i>Cleared 6/12/08, letter attached.</i>	<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.			

FAX COVER SHEET



*Log to  
Alicia Per  
Felicity*

S. C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS  
FAX # (803) 734-2827

DATE: May 21, 2008

**RECEIVED**

TO: Ms. Keller

MAY 22 2008

FROM:

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FAX NUMBER: 255-8235

PHONE NUMBER:

PAGES: 5 (including this one)

MESSAGE:

Ms. Keller,

Here's the fax I called you about. If you can get this moving in Felicity's absence, that would be great.

Thanks very much,

Julie Lybrand

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE SHEETS INDICATED, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS  
AT (803) 734-3053.

## FAX COVER SHEET



### S. C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS FAX # (803) 734-2827

DATE: May 21, 2008  
TO: Felicity Costin Myers  
FROM: Julie Lybrand  
FAX NUMBER: 255-8235  
PHONE NUMBER:  
PAGES: 4 (including this one)

#### MESSAGE:

Dear Felicity,

So I'm perusing the DHHS website trying to figure out how to help Chairman Walker's constituent. And there you are in charge of a couple of the programs that she may be able to plug into! I'm a bit overwhelmed by the magnitude of the need described but knew that the Long Term Community Care program and county health department would be two logical places to start.

In any event, could you have someone on your staff look this letter over and give me a call? The advice and expertise of you in the social services area would be of great assistance as we try to get Ms. Swenson some help.

Thanks very much,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie", is written over a faint, larger printed name "Julie Lybrand".

Julie Lybrand  
Research Assistant

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE SHEETS INDICATED, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS  
AT (803) 734-3053.

May 10, 2008

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of my sister, Carol Swenson (Roth) and her family who are in desperate need of assistance.

My sister Carol is a remarkable woman with tremendous strength and perseverance. She has been faced with tremendous obstacles in her life and has always seemed to overcome each of them with courage and optimism. She is a dedicated single mother of two exceptional children, a son age 13 and daughter age 9 who love her dearly.

After college Carol set out into the world as a practicing chiropractor with a bright future. She was devoted to her patients. She especially took care of the patients' who didn't have insurance coverage. She never turned anyone away because of their inability to pay, even treating a family of five regularly in exchange for a homemade loaf of bread.

Carol's situation began to change after she was involved in a head-on collision in 1996. She sustained many serious injuries including a broken neck (cervical fusion C6-T1), nine broken ribs, collapsed lungs, and a broken ankle. Her broken neck and fused spine left her with extensive loss of sensation in her hands and unable to work in the career she loved so much.

Carol's situation has been compounded over the years by many other diagnosed conditions including, a rare autoimmune disease - Hashimotos Thyroiditis Encephalopathy, Fibromyalgia, Hypothyroid, Cervical Cancer (removed 1996), Diverticulitis, Ulcerative Colitis, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Gastric Reflux, seizures, food allergies, Restless Legs Syndrome, Asthma/COPD, Bipolar Disorder, and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

She and her two children survive on the money her husband, from whom she has been separated for many years, gives her in child support. She also receives approximately \$60.00 in food stamps a month. Carol has tried to support herself and her family doing various jobs but has found it impossible to continue working and therefore has no medical insurance. She used to have Medicaid but for some reason no longer qualifies. The children are still covered under Medicaid.

Her estranged husband lives 45 minutes away in an extended stay hotel. He has a heart condition and diabetes and suffered mini-strokes which kept him out of work for over a year. He is back to work and does have some type of health insurance for himself. He does the best he can to help by providing child support for the children and remains active in their lives.

For the most part Carol's medical care is now provided via a free clinic. Unfortunately, Carol is, I feel, too complicated a case for the free clinic and I do not feel she is getting the care she needs. The neurologist, Dr. Darwin Boor, who diagnosed her rare autoimmune disorder does see her on occasion and continues to try to help her.

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5/20/08

Free Clinic informed  
Ms Swenson they could not  
accept 05/21/2008 04:21PM  
rude when asked

Carol sometimes gets caught between the free clinic and the neurologist office, however. Things will come up and the neurologist will tell her she has to go through the clinic. The clinic will tell her they are unable to help her and that she has to go to the neurologist.

An example of how she is too complicated for the free clinic follows: the neurologist recently ordered several blood tests for my sister but the free clinic did not understand the tests. She was also sent to the hospital recently to have some of these blood tests run and even the staff at the hospital was not sure what the blood tests were for, or how to run them. It took the hospital staff 45 minutes to figure out what to do before drawing blood.

Carol's neurologist has recommended she obtain a hospital sponsorship at Greenville Memorial and she is working on obtaining this. I am not exactly sure what this is, but it is supposed to help with her hospital bills. The neurologist also told my sister recently that no one in the area will understand her conditions and mentioned that he is going to try to connect her with the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She has not heard anything more about this, and she has no idea how, or if it will work out. I looked up the University online and it appears to be in Charleston, which is approximately three and a half hours away from where my sister lives. Carol is afraid that she is unable to travel that far, at least on her own.

Carol's health seems to have deteriorated more rapidly in recent months. Carol has great difficulty walking and now requires a walker and a shower chair. She was able to obtain the walker and shower chair from donations made to the free clinic. She is now having difficulty walking with the walker and feels she needs a motorized scooter or power wheel chair of some sort. Due to her neck injury a standard wheel chair is not an viable option for her. She has no ability to obtain a scooter and her old single wide mobile home will not accommodate anything like this.

Another health concern is a reoccurrence of cancer as she had cervical cancer in 1996. Carol has lost a lot of weight, gets sick often and is exhausted most of the time. Recently, she began experiencing difficulty swallowing. This is a new and very frightening development; it seems that she is losing the ability to control her muscles.

No one is coordinating Carol's care or medication and her health continues to deteriorate. I feel my sister is falling through the cracks and I fear that her condition will deteriorate to a point of being irreversible before she can obtain the help she needs.

Carol applied for Social Security Disability twice and was turned down. She hired the law firm McChesney and McChesney a year or so ago. In a recent conversation with the paralegal, Carol was told it will be another year or **two** before she would even receive a hearing.

Carol lives in a very small, old, single wide mobile home in Landrum, South Carolina. She currently is unable to use the stove or oven because they require gas and she is unable to pay the gas bill. She went through part of the winter without central heat (they had space heaters) or stove/oven because she could not pay the gas bill then either. Recently, they went without a

refrigerator for four days when their old refrigerator stopped working. She was able to purchase a used one for \$25.00.

Carol's future and the well being of her children require assistance to get them through this medical and financial crisis. She has tried to seek assistance via the Social Security Office, state and local government, free-clinics, and emergency rooms. She has hired a local law firm to assist her in obtaining Social Security Disability benefits. Even with all of these attempts to obtain assistance she still seems to be falling through the cracks. I fear for her health and well-being and the well-being of my niece and nephew. There has to be some help available to her. At this time Carol needs assistance with the following items:

- Medical care
- Coordination of medical care and services
- Rides to and from doctors and appointments
- Childcare and/or after school care
- Domestic assistance including housekeeping and cooking
- Mobile home repairs
- Mobility related devices, i.e., motorized wheelchair, scooter, walker, etc.
- Handicap accessible housing
- Handicap accessible vehicle
- Financial assistance
- Clothing donations
- Grocery gift cards
- Assistance with gas and utility bills

The assistance she needs is quite varied and I am not sure where to turn or how to help her. Unfortunately, my family does not have the ability to help her financially and no one in the family lives near her. We live in Florida and she lives in South Carolina.

If you know of any resources to which I can refer her or anyone she or I can contact, please let me know. I will be happy to share her address and phone number with you.

If you, or anyone else, have any questions or require any additional information, feel free to contact me anytime either by e-mail [nswenson@cfl.r.com](mailto:nswenson@cfl.r.com) or telephone (H) 407-599-4250, (C) 407-376-6963.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Swenson

Carol Swenson (Roth)  
864-457-2837



#607

*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

June 12, 2008

The Honorable Robert E. Walker  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
Chairman, Committee on Education and Public Works  
429 Blatt Building  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Walker:

Thank you for writing our agency at the request of Ms. Nancy Swenson regarding her sister, Ms. Carol Swenson, and her healthcare needs.

A member of our staff has been in direct contact with Carol Swenson regarding Medicaid eligibility and the rules and guidelines governing the program. We also provided her with information on programs and organizations that can offer possible assistance with her healthcare services, prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization and daily living needs.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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

Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/jfcol



*State of South Carolina*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*

Mark Sanford  
Governor

Emma Forkner  
Director

June 12, 2008

Ms. Carol Swenson  
122 Lockhart Circle  
Landrum, South Carolina 29356

Dear Ms. Swenson:

At your sister's request, Representative Bob Walker contacted our agency regarding your healthcare needs.

You currently receive Medicaid coverage through the Family Planning program, which covers limited family planning services. You recently applied for the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver program which covers individuals who qualify for nursing home care but who choose to stay at home. This program also provides assistance with prescriptions and other medical services. Your eligibility worker, Ms. Elizabeth Marder, has mailed you a request for information needed to process your application. Please return the requested information to Ms. Marder by June 13, 2008. If you have not received this request or have any questions regarding this information, please contact Ms. Marder at (864) 467-7906.

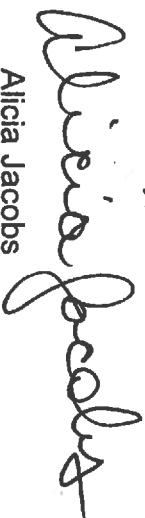
Your sister's letter indicates that your application for assistance under the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Disability program was denied. Medicaid uses the same disability rules as SSA to determine eligibility for its HCBS waiver program. However, since it appears you have new medical conditions since your SSA denial, Medicaid will review your current medical information and make a decision based on your new conditions.

Ms. Carolyn Roach, Director of the Division of Policy and Planning, and Ms. Valerie Hollis, Supervisor of the Disability Determinations Division, spoke with you on May 29, 2008 regarding the application and disability determination process. Ms. Roach mailed you an application packet for the Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) program. However, since you have already applied for HCBS, it will not be necessary for you to complete the ABD application.



Enclosed is information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare services, prescriptions, inpatient hospitalization and daily living needs. If you have any questions regarding Medicaid, please contact Ms. Jennifer Lynch at (803) 898-3965.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia Jacobs".

Alicia Jacobs  
Acting Deputy Director

AJ/col  
Enclosures

cc: Ms. Nancy Swenson, Power of Attorney, Ms. Carolyn Roach, Director, Division of Policy and Planning, Ms. Valerie Hollis, Supervisor, Disability Determinations Division

Log # 697

**From:** Lena Girgis  
**To:** Denise Epps  
**CC:** Jan Polatty  
**Date:** 6/2/2008 8:10 AM  
**Subject:** Re: we rec'd ldg #0607 late aft on 5/30

When I talked to you on Friday, Jan approved an extension until Wednesday. Thank you.

>>> Denise Epps 05/30/08 7:37 PM >>>  
it's due date is 6/2 - can we have an extension on this one?

it was a faxed inquiry from rep. walker's staffer julie lybrand to felicity myers which marga rec'd 5/21.  
carolyn roach has been working with alicia on it already, and carolyn has sent the individual a cover letter and ABD application which donna day will process in-house, and valerie will have expedited.

so, we've already been working on it but alicia has asked jenny to prepare a response for her signature. so many people have been involved with this one that we have been gathering facts in order to prepare the response and may need an extra day.

(marga, did you by any chance let julie lybrand know that we are assisting ms. swenson? if so, we won't need to prepare a response to her, i don't think, just letters to ms. swenson and her sister, nancy swenson.)