

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>7-16-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000028</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaudy 7/21/08, better attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>7-25-08</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

	APPROVALS <small>(Only when prepared for director's signature)</small>	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE <small>(Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)</small>	COMMENT
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

July 9, 2008

Dianne Lockman Torres
30 W. Deer Trail
Belton, SC 29627

Dtorres400@yahoo.com
(864)338-5771 home ((864)616-7756 my cell
(864)616-7680 father's cell (Anthony)

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Honorable Officers of SC,

I am forwarding this letter in hopes of getting some help with my stepson.

On July 7, 2008, May 8, 2008 and two other times this year my husband's 18 year old son, who is diagnosed with Mild Mental Retardation, was admitted into Greenville Memorial Hospital in SC. He was delusional, anxious, agitated and very nervous. He exhibits odd behaviors at home and school, he cannot sit still, he is disruptive, he eats ravenously, he can go through a two pound loaf of bread and a pound of bologna in a day, he bankrupted his lunch account at school for the whole week on Monday at lunch. He has been to the ER so much they know him by name. Every time he is in there, they either send him up to the Annex, a smelly dirty holding facility for people who have no insurance or a bed, or this time when the Annex refused him, they left him in the Intermediate Care unit in the ER at Greenville Memorial.

During all this time, Patti a social worker at the hospital was trying to get him in different hospitals for treatment, but he was turned down. There was never a satisfactory reason. I am assuming his condition was blamed on his MR. When Micheal is well, he can comprehend things; he is just a little slow, he has an IQ of 60-65.

His father works second shift and I work first, we literally do not see each other except when one of us is sleeping during the week. When Micheal is fragile like this I am very uncomfortable being alone with him, he has shoved me before. This past weekend he hit his father. I know he is capable of hurting me and this frightens me, plus we never have any warning or know when he will have a relapse.

We have been through all the proper channels I know to go through. He has a DDSN coordinator, he is receiving disability through SSI, he has a case open with Dept. of Mental Health through Piedmont Mental Health, his appointment to see their psychiatrist is in two weeks. He is currently under a private psychiatrist, Dr. Jeffery Stephens, and he has a Disabilities Advocate, Sarah St. Anj.

His DDSN coordinator, Elizabeth Robinson is looking for placement for him; they have put him on their "Number 1 Critical List", but have said that she cannot find an "appropriate" placement for him. She also suggested that I see if his Piedmont Mental Health counselor, Laura Poindexter, could be of assistance. She tells me that her supervisor says DDSN is the lead agency and they cannot do this. It is like a dog chasing his tail.

To get to the point, Micheal needs residential placement. He did not grow up with his father, although he WAS active in his life. Micheal chose not to see his father as he got older. He lived with his mother, his brother and his half brother and his family in LaGrange, NC, six hours away. So we were not able to get up there much, but there was always phone and email communications, most times on a daily basis. Micheal only lives with us now because his mother and his brother have passed away. His brother from suicide in 2007, his mother from a fistulated ulcer in 2006. Her family will not take him in, his half brother is a drug addict and has stolen from Micheal in the past, so this is not an option either.

I am very concerned with the fact that there are no facilities in this state to take care of MR patients with mental illness. I assure you, Micheal is not the only person with this problem. Please tell me; Who do I need to talk to, so that we can get Micheal the therapy and the treatment he needs. We have tried therapy with Micheal before, but every time we would get it started he wound up in the hospital with another breakdown. This was just coincidental, not brought on by the therapy. The social worker at the ER just informed my husband that she was going to try to speak to someone that is over Micheal's coordinator at DDSN.

I am sure you can tell from this letter that we are at our wit's end with this problem. I am VERY afraid if something is not done soon, we are going to have a more severe problem on our hands. Micheal is 18 years old and his hormones are starting to kick in also. He now has it in his head that he has numerous wives, myself and his sister in law included.

As I have said, his father works second shift and I work first shift, I make it a point to come home as late as possible. When I get home, I go straight into my room and lock the door. I am that uncomfortable being with him alone in the house. This is not fair to him or to me. DDSN has also been saying that he can have respite care at the home, but they are finding it hard to find someone to match his father's schedule. I will keep this letter going to whoever I think can be of ANY help to Micheal and others like him. Please let me hear from you with some sort of answer.

It would also be beneficial to other families who deal with the same situation if there was more education. I have found out most of what I know about mental illness and retardation from my own research. The hospital or physicians do nothing to educate us caregivers.

Sincerely,



Dianne Lockman Torres



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Log # 28 ✓

Mark Sanford
Governor

Robert M. Kerr
Director

July 21, 2008

Ms. Dianne Lockman Torres
30 W. Deer Trail
Belton, SC 29627

Dear Ms. Torres,

I am writing in response to your letter of July 9th and our follow-up conversation. I am pleased that appropriate placement has been secured for your stepson. It sounds like you and your husband have been strong advocates for your stepson and that your advocacy was instrumental in securing placement. I am sorry that there are not more resources available in South Carolina to meet the complex needs of individuals with a developmental disability and a mental illness. As you pointed out, your stepson is not the only South Carolinian with those co-occurring disorders.

I encourage you to continue to advocate for your stepson. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (803) 898-2803.

Sincerely,


Felicity C. Myers, Ph.D.
Deputy Director

FCM/k