



July 16, 2012

Dr. Marion Burton
Medical Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Dr. Burton:

I appreciated the opportunity to present Carolina Children's Home's (CCH) plans to open a treatment center for eating disorders at SCDHHS's task force meeting several months ago. I wanted to update you on our progress and request a meeting to discuss Medicaid issues.

We plan to open the South Carolina Eating Disorder Center at Carolina Children's Home in January 2013. We have hired Dr. Timothy Brewerton as our executive medical director. He began July 1. We also are discussing terms for an agreement with University Specialty Clinics – Pediatrics to provide our Chief Pediatric Consultant and on-site pediatric care. As they do for other referring sites, they have also agreed to immediately admit any of our patients that need acute care. We are coordinating protocols and admission procedures with Greenville Hospital System as well.

As a non-profit we are committed to provide care for not only those who can pay either through private funds or private insurance, but to Medicaid and indigent eating disorder patients as well making us one of only three such facilities in the country that accept Medicaid and the only one that will accept patients on a sliding scale.

We need your help to understand Medicaid fee negotiation, reimbursement, etc. and how DHHS wants to work with us on those issues for the eating disorder program. We currently have an out-patient counseling center that bills Medicaid and nine private insurance providers as well as accepting private pay and payments on a sliding scale. We have experience with the new requirements, have worked through the approval process, have received approval from some of our providers, and are waiting for the final few since their deadlines for notification were moved to August. All of that to say that we are familiar with Medicaid billing and changes to that process.

I would like to set up a meeting with you, Dr. Brewerton; Matthew Roberts, one of our Board members; our billing person and myself to discuss Medicaid issues and begin to negotiate a daily reimbursement rate for each level of our program. If you would send me some dates you can be meet, I will be happy to coordinate.

I have attached a copy of our case statement for your information. Thank you in advance for your help. We look forward to working with DHHS to meet this critical need in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Margaret Torrey
Executive Director and CEO

