


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>1-27-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000398</i>	Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Wells, Ms. Forlner</i> <i>Cleand 2/4/09, letter</i> <i>attached.</i> 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>2-5-09</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
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



**South Carolina
Department of
Juvenile Justice**

P.O. Box 21069
Columbia, SC 29221-1069
www.state.sc.us/djj

Mark Sanford
Governor
State of South Carolina

Bill Byars, Director

January 22, 2009

RECEIVED

JAN 29 2009

Mrs. Emma Forkner, Director
Department of Health and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206

Dear Mrs. Forkner,

This letter is in reference to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) amendment to the Medicaid State Plan for rehabilitative behavioral health services to "discrete" services effective July 1, 2009. In planning for this implementation, DHHS requested that State Agencies submit a transition plan that would be used to demonstrate the impact of this amendment on the service delivery system of South Carolina. State Agencies submitted these plans to DHHS in August and September, 2008.

In developing the Department of Juvenile Justice transition plan, staff based implementation timeframes on the assumption that specific information needed to make infrastructure changes would be known by specific dates. The specific information that DJJ must have to make needed changes include but is not limited to service standards, billing codes and reimbursement rates, documentation requirements, and authorization requirements. In addition, DJJ will need to develop parameters for authorizing services, develop/update training materials and train internal staff.

In reviewing the transition plan we submitted, staff now believe that the July 1, 2009 projected implementation date is not realistic. This is primarily due to the fact that the information outlined above has not been finalized and/or made available to state agencies to review. Based on this the DJJ would like to request that DHHS extend implementation to three months from the date that the rates, service standards, etc. are provided to State Agencies.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mrs. Joan Barber at 803.896.9477.

Sincerely,


William R. Byars, Jr.
Director

Office of Medicaid Administration
Santee Building Suite 210
100 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
Telephone: 803.896.9477; Fax: 803.896.8473

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State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Log # 398 ✓

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

February 4, 2009

Judge William Byars, Jr.
Department of Juvenile Justice
P.O. Box 21069
Columbia, SC 29221-1069

Dear Judge Byars:

I am writing in response to your letter of January 22, 2009 in which you requested a delay in the implementation of the State Plan Amendment for behavioral health rehabilitative services. We fully appreciate the complexity of implementation for you and other agencies and do apologize for the delay in receiving standards and rates. We, like you and all state agencies, are experiencing staff shortages and have had to redirect staff time due to the series of budget cuts imposed on us this fiscal year.

As you know, South Carolina is moving forward with this amendment at the suggestion of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). CMS made this recommendation due to the lack of specificity in our existing State Plan regarding behavioral health rehabilitative services. Trying to move from our current system to a universal system has been challenging for my staff and for the actuaries who are involved in our rate development.

I appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention and we have given serious consideration to your request. We have apprised CMS of the desire for a delay in the implementation date and assure you we will continue to pursue this request.

Thank you for your service to the children of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Felicity Myers".

Felicity Costin Myers, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, Medical Programs

FCM/jjp

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Bill

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