

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Giese</i>	DATE <i>7-11-11</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>101023</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Heck, Dept. Stendland</i> <i>Cleared 8/18/11, see attached</i> <i>Notes:</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>7-20-11</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.			

Elizabeth R. Munnerlyn
District No. 54
Chesterfield & Marlboro Counties
207 West Main Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512



333-A Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201
Tel. (803) 212-6896
ElizabethMunnerlyn@schouse.gov

Committee:
Medical, Military, Public &
Municipal Affairs
Subcommittees:
Social Services, Mental Health
and Children's Affairs

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

July 6, 2011

RECEIVED

Via facsimile to (803)255-8235/original by mail

JUL 08 2011

Anthony E. Keck, Director
Department of Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Re: Medicaid Rate Reduction effective July 8, 2011

Dear Director Keck:

I have been contacted by Jeff Reece, the administrator of Marlboro Park Hospital which is the local hospital in my district in Marlboro County. This already very small facility was forced to reduce their staff by three positions as a result of the 3% rate reduction in April of this year. With this additional 4% reduction effective on Friday, additional positions will likely be lost.

Marlboro County has consistently been in the top two positions for unemployment in the state for the last few years. We cannot afford to lose any additional jobs or influx of money into our local economy. In addition to our high unemployment rate, a large portion of our population has Medicaid coverage (approximately 35%). This facility has little private pay/private insured clientele to offset the reduction of payments from Medicaid.

The reduction would further affect the access to health care and may cause the reduction in services able to be offered at our hospital. The elderly and poor in our community do not have public transportation readily available to them to commute to a larger hospital where more services are available. I understand that Chesterfield General Hospital was exempted from the rate reduction. It lies in our neighboring county -- Chesterfield County. Marlboro Park actually lies in a much poorer and less populated county. Marlboro Park, in fact, has only 50-60% of the admissions that Chesterfield General has. As a result, Marlboro Park has far less revenue with which to dilute this reduction.

I request that you reconsider your decision to apply this rate reduction to Marlboro Park. Marlboro County meets the rural designation for many other purposes. Our only hospital and access to health care for many in our county will be jeopardized by

the application of your reduction to Marlboro Park. I ask that we be given the same treatment as those similarly situated (i.e. Chesterfield General Hospital).

Please advise me as soon as possible as to your determination in this very important matter. With kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth R. Munnerlyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Elizabeth R. Munnerlyn

C: Senator Kent Williams
Jeff Reece, CEO Marlboro Park Hospital

August 18, 2011

The Honorable Elizabeth R. Munneryn
South Carolina House of Representatives
333-A Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Representative Munneryn:

Thank you for your letter regarding the impact of the Medicaid reimbursement reductions on Marlboro Park Hospital in Bennettsville, South Carolina.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has reviewed the exception criteria that was used to determine the hospitals exempt from the July 11, 2011, rate reductions. Based upon additional data from the University of South Carolina Institute of Families in Society, we will also exclude three more hospitals from receiving the recently executed 4% reductions. The updated description of exempt hospitals as well as the added hospitals are as follows:

- Hospital services provided by qualifying burn intensive care unit hospitals,
- Critical access hospitals and isolated rural,
- Small rural and certain large rural hospitals as defined by Rural/Urban Commuting Area classes,
- Large rural hospitals must be located in a Health Professional Shortage Area for primary care for local population,
- Chester Regional Medical Center, Colleton Medical Center and Marlboro Park Hospital.

We appreciate your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid program. If we may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please feel free to contact me at (803) 898-0178.

Sincerely,



Melanie "Bz" Giese, RN
Deputy Director

MG/vm

log # 606023

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Grisu Vaughn</i>	DATE <i>Re</i> <i>7-11-11</i>
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2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Mr. Keck, Deps, Stendland</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>7-20-11</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
<i>1. [Signature] 7/21/11</i>	<i>7/25/11</i>		<i>Regrace sent to Helen 7/29/11</i>
<i>2. [Signature] 8/13/11</i>	<i>8/13/11</i>	<i>7/25/11</i>	
<i>3. Renovia Vaughn 8/8/2011</i>		<i>8/8/2011</i>	
4.			