

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
Singleton	3-18-08

Relogged 3/24/08 to Singleton per Emma.

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000481	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE 3-26-08
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR C.C. Wells, Davis, Ms. Forlner Floyd	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action
Closed 3/26/08, letter attached.	

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.	Copy of letter from Kathleen Hayes, director as DSS attached.		
2.			
3.			
4.			

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Floyd</i>	DATE <i>3-18-08</i>
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2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Wells, Davis, Ms. Forlney</i> <i>Jacobs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		

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1. <i>Burr. copy</i> <i>AS on all of</i>			<i>Relogging to</i>
2. <i>Rags (until he is</i> <i>more familiar)</i>			<i>D. Singleton</i>
3.			
4.			

JOEL LOURIE
SENATOR, RICHLAND AND KERSHAW COUNTIES
SENATORIAL DISTRICT NO. 22

COLUMBIA ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 142
601 GRESSETTE SENATE OFFICE BLDG.
COLUMBIA, SC 29202
PHONE: (803) 212-6116
FAX: (803) 212-6119
EMAIL: JBL@SCSENATE.ORG



COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY
GENERAL

HOME ADDRESS:
P. O. BOX 6212
COLUMBIA, SC 29260

March 13, 2008

Dr. Kathleen Hayes
Department of Social Services
1535 Confederate Avenue
Columbia, SC 29202-1520

Ms. Emma Forkner
Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
P. O. Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Dear Dr. Hayes and Ms. Forkner,

I recently met with Jackie Richards and Andy Pope from Family Connections to discuss the possibility of South Carolina developing a single point of entry system.

I believe this concept has great merit. It appears a single point of entry system would create more efficient and coordinated care for families and children, simplify life for the consumer, and probably be less expensive to manage.

I understand that both of your agencies are in the process of overhauling eligibility systems. I hope you will consider the possibility of choosing a system that will be compatible for a single point of entry. This decision and process will have an impact for decades to come.

Please let me know your thoughts on this important matter at your earliest convenience. Thank you for what you do for the people of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Joel Lourie

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joel Lourie", is written over a large, stylized oval shape.

cc Ms. Jackie Richards, Family Connections

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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cc Ms. Jackie Richards, Family Connections

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MAR 17 2008
Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

MAR 24 2008
SCDHHS
Office of General Counsel

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Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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cc Ms. Jackie Richards, Family Connections

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MAR 24 2008

SCDHHS
Office of General Counsel



Page 481 ✓

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

March 26, 2008

Emma Forkner
Director

The Honorable Joel Lourie
South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Senator Lourie:

I appreciate your interest in the possibility of South Carolina developing a single point of entry system to support families seeking services. In fact the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Social Services (DSS) explored the feasibility of purchasing a system that would determine eligibility for Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps, and the State's Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). However, the agency discovered significant barriers to implementing such a system. The difficulties basically center on these issues:

- Two distinct agencies instead of an umbrella agency --- which would result in ownership issues regarding data and systems changes.
- Different eligibility criteria and rules and regulations governing the programs administered by each agency
- DHHS and DSS employees are not always located in the same county office
- Other entities, including state agencies, have Medicaid eligibility workers and not DSS workers
- DHHS and DSS have different contractors managing their existing eligibility system contracts
- DHHS and DSS systems do not currently interface

I have interviewed DHHS and DSS staff who worked on a single point of entry system about three years ago. The effort was abandoned after a year because of the issues I cite above. However, I have determined that we should explore options that can help both agencies to get beyond these barriers.

While the agency does need a new eligibility system and had planned to use carry forward funds to pay for this effort, it appears I will be directed by proviso to use these funds to fund this agency as well as a majority of the state health agencies and various earmark initiatives. As a result, I will have to request additional funding in next year's budget in order to advance this initiative.

I thank you for your interest and will always appreciate recommendations that will better serve the citizens of South Carolina.

Best Regards,

Emma Forkner
Director

EF:jip
C: Andy Pope
Kathleen Hayes

Ref Log #481

DSS

Serving Children and Families

Cleaud 3/26/08

KATHLEEN M. HAYES, PH.D.
STATE DIRECTOR

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

April 22, 2008

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APR 25 2008

The Honorable Joel Lourie
South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-0142

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Senator Lourie:

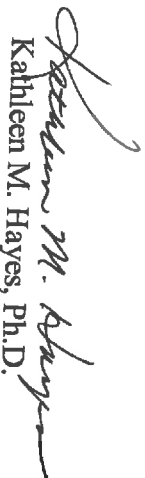
Thank you for your letter of interest in the possibility of developing a single point entry for families seeking assistance from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health and Human Services. Your letter afforded both me and Emma Forkner an opportunity to understand the issues surrounding the development of such a system as revealed in the efforts made by the prior directors of our agencies.

While both Ms. Forkner and I believe that these barriers can be overcome, DSS is not in a position at this time to devote the financial or management resources necessary to move forward on this front. As you know, DSS recently redirected \$3 million for technology initiatives to ensure full funding of the ABC day care voucher program. This, along with the budget reductions being realized by all agencies, is limiting our resources significantly.

I do think that a single point of entry into DSS and HHS systems is a laudable goal for citizen-friendly services. We will continue to look for avenues to achieve this goal and, when resources become available, explore the concept more rigorously.

As always, I thank you for your input and look forward to working with you in service to our citizens.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Hayes, Ph.D.
State Director

KMH/mr

cc: Emma Forkner ✓