


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>5-22-09</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>1011654</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>5-29-09</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaved 6/4/09, letter attached.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <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.			

Thad T. Viers

District No. 68 - Horry County
P. O. Box 31231
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588



434-C Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29211
Tel. (803) 734-3064

Committee:

Judiciary

MAJORITY WHIP

House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Sub-Committees:

Constitutional Laws, Vice-Chairman
I-73 Study Committee
Horry County Delegation,
Chairman

May 20, 2009

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Robert M. Kerr, Director
Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
P O Box 8206
Columbia, S C 29202-8206

Dear Mr. Kerr:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter received from Mrs. Linda Johnson. As she has stated in her letter she and her husband are trying to find additional means to help pay for their children's dental and health expenses. I would greatly appreciate your looking into this matter and investigating any other avenues that would be beneficial to the Johnson family in resolving their situation.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "TV", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Thad T. Viers
State Representative
House District 68

TTV//bs

Enclosure

Cc: Linda M. Johnson

RECEIVED

MAY 22 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Linda M. Johnson
705 Gazania Lane
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579
(843) 236-1630
May 7, 2009

The Honorable Thad Viers
P.O. Box 31231
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you because I don't know where else to turn to. I moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 2005 with my husband and three children simply because I love the area and have since I was a small child vacationing here with my family.

About a year and a half ago, my son developed some severe dental issues which were going to be very expensive to fix. Although my husband works and has insurance coverage, our portion was too much for us to handle and we were forced to apply for Medicaid. Our co pays through his work then went up and my son was diagnosed with ADHD. We went through all of the "approved" medications for him, but he was not able to take them. They caused severe, debilitating depression and he is only seven years old. Up until that time, the ONLY thing we used the Medicaid for was dental bills. We paid the rest out of our own pockets.

In February of this year, we had to recertify for Medicaid benefits. We were denied because they said my husband makes too much money. Let me explain our situation to you:

1. We have three kids living at home.
2. He has two kids living with their mother in New Jersey. He pays child support for them in the amount of \$180 per week.
3. After paying child support to his ex-wife, my husband's take home pay is approximately \$250 every two weeks. This is not enough to pay bills, let alone medical expenses and put food on the table.
4. My 19 year old son is a full time college student at Coastal Carolina University living at home. We are still responsible for him.

We truly are not asking for a hand out and accepting the Medicaid was the hardest thing I have ever done. I have always prided myself on being able to pay for my children's medical and other expenses, but we truly need this right now. My son's ADHD medication is going to run us \$75 a month after our insurance. I have to get his eyes examined, but none of the eye doctors take vision insurance, so I can't have them examined because I don't have the \$200 to pay for an exam out of my pocket.

We don't want food stamps or any other help; just help paying for our children's medical expenses. I honestly don't know what we are going to do.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Johnson



Log #0654

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

June 4, 2009

The Honorable Thad Viers
South Carolina House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
434-C Blatt Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative Viers:

Thank you for referring Ms. Linda Johnson to our agency regarding Medicaid eligibility and the healthcare needs of her children.

A member of our staff has been in direct contact with Ms. Johnson to address her concerns regarding Medicaid eligibility and the rules and regulations governing the program. We also provided information on other programs and organizations that offer assistance with healthcare services, prescription medications, inpatient hospitalization and daily living needs. Ms. Johnson has contact information if she has any questions.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the South Carolina Medicaid program. If I may be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emma Forkner", is written over a horizontal line.

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/jcle



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

June 1, 2009

Linda and David Johnson
705 Gazania Lane
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29579

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Johnson:

Representative Thad Viers contacted our agency on your behalf regarding Medicaid eligibility and the healthcare needs of your children. Medicaid eligibility is based on federal and state requirements. To qualify, an individual must meet certain financial guidelines and categorical requirements. Enclosed is an overview of our state's Medicaid program.

We have received your appeal request regarding the closure of Antonia's and David's coverage through Medicaid's *Partners for Healthy Children* (PHC) program. Our records indicate their benefits ended because your family's income is over the allowable limit for your children's coverage to continue. Income is based on gross earnings and does not allow deductions for taxes, utilities, car payments, or other living expenses. Since you requested a continuation of Medicaid benefits during the appeals process, coverage will continue until an appeal decision is made; however, should the final decision be adverse, any payments made during the ineligible period are subject to repayment.

Our Division of Hearings and Appeals sent you communication requesting justification for granting a fair hearing regarding the termination of your children's Medicaid coverage. A hearing cannot be granted to challenge income limits or agency policy; however, if you believe an error in the application process or interpretation of agency policy or federal law was made, please provide this evidence by June 10, 2009, to Janet Goode in our Division of Hearings and Appeals. She may be reached at (803) 898-2658. If this evidence is not provided, continuation of your children's Medicaid benefits will end.

In an effort to be of assistance to other members in your family, we have enclosed information on other programs and organizations that can assist residents in South Carolina with their healthcare needs, prescription medications, and inpatient hospitalization. We hope this information is helpful. If we may be of further assistance regarding the Medicaid program in South Carolina, please call Denise Epps in Constituent Services at (803) 898-2505.

Sincerely,

Alicia Jacobs
Alicia Jacobs
Deputy Director

AJ/cle
Enclosures