

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>4-17-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOC NUMBER <i>100579</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>4-24-09</i>		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action DATE DUE _____		

cc: Ms. Forkner
Cleared 4/20/09, see attached
e-mail.

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



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APR 17 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Emma Forkner
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Re: Tyler James Goad
SSN: 251-91-2513
TEFRA benefits

Dear Emma,

Please find enclosed an e-mail from Mrs. Stacey Blodgett regarding her son's application for TEFRA benefits. Your assistance in responding would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for your help and take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Mark Sanford.

Mark Sanford

MS/cb

Enclosure

Log. Jacobs
Dir Sign

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APR 17 2009

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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APR 09 2009

From: <staceyjuly1968@yahoo.com>
To: <mark@gov.sc.gov>
Date: Thu, Apr 9, 2009 1:52 PM
Subject: RE: TEFRA Medicaid - My son

Contact the Office of the Governor

Name | Stacey Blodgett
Company |
Address1 | 415 Cloverleaf Lane
Address2 |
City | Spartanburg
State | SC
Zip | 29301
County | Spartanburg
Phone | 864-431-2040
Email | staceyjuly1968@yahoo.com
IP | 10.92.2.5
Date | 4/9/2009 1:39:50 PM
Subject | RE: TEFRA Medicaid - My son

Stacey Blodgett
415 Cloverleaf Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29301
(864) 431-2040

April 9, 2009

Governor Mark Sanford
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12267
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Governor Sanford:

My son is almost 16 and he has bi-polar. He is no longer in school because of many, many issues that I won't get into but primarily because he cannot cope with normal school life. He is enrolled with an online Charter high school which he uses to work at his own pace. My problem today, however, is not the school system but instead relates to appropriate medical care for my child.

I am employed full-time with a South Carolina manufacturing company. I am the executive assistant to the president. I have health insurance and my ex-husband also has health insurance which carries my children. We share the cost of my son's doctors, therapy and prescriptions which totals approximately \$4000 a year. Tyler needs more. There are several times a year when he has violent outbursts that last anywhere from minutes to hours and can continue on and off for days.

My son has been declared "disabled" according to Social Security

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Bowie

guidelines but receives no benefit since he does not qualify based on my and my ex-husband's income. I have applied for TEFRA Medicaid through SCDHHS but was denied. We appealed and the judgment stands firm as denied. This entire process took 9 months!!!

According to the TEFRA guidelines (created in 1989) used to make determination of qualification of services, my son does not meet the criteria based on "LEVEL OF CARE". Within the guidelines there are stipulations for the mentally retarded, but it seems to me that these guidelines do not take into account other mental illnesses. In 1989 when the guidelines were established, there was little known about bi-polar disorder and the effects it has on ones behavior, moods, social skills, family life, etc. Although he has the ability to dress himself, feed himself, etc. he needs constant monitoring and cannot function at the age of a normal 15 year old. He needs assistance for daily living which I have been providing for him.

Upon evaluation of my child by a State Nurse, he appeared to be categorized as not needing the level of care required for approval of the TEFRA program; however, he was interviewed on a good day. Had she interviewed him on a day like yesterday, she would have heard him swearing, witnessed him throwing objects, pulling his hair and "flipping out". This is not "bad behavior" but rather a "manic" state which occurs often. The guidelines also state that because he had not been "hospitalized within 24 hours of application" he didn't qualify for level of care.

This entire process took 9 months. Within that 9 month period he should have been hospitalized at least twice, but I did not have the means available to admit him due to costs of these long-term care programs.

Tyler at times needs to be in a facility with trained professionals to care for him, stabilize him, and who are able to handle his many moods and outbursts. This however, is not possible since all facilities equipped to handle children like him cost between \$5,000 and \$20,000 per month and none accept private insurance.

TEFRA and MEDICAID are both accepted but he doesn't qualify. I do not want to put my child in a permanent institution and would rather care for him at home. If he could receive TEFRA he would be able to receive additional services in the home which are not covered under private insurance, and then when there are moments of crisis and he needs hospitalization, I would have options.

I called the local health depart, social services and other agencies and all tell me that there is no help for my child. That unless he is 1) a ward of the State or 2) on Medicaid or TEFRA there is no funding available to help cover these costs and that Continuum of Care cannot get involved until TEFRA or Medicaid has been approved.

One State employee even told me that "you would be better off to quit your job and apply for welfare and Medicaid so that you could get assistance for your child." This is absolutely inexcusable! I work hard to provide my children a decent life. We don't

have luxuries, but we have a house and necessities. I am not asking for a handout, but assistance for a disabled child should be something I shouldn't have to spend hours upon hours working to get when there are many people who receive aid and don't even try to find ample jobs. In addition, there are many other bi-polar children who are currently receiving TEFFRA. Some of those children are not even as bad off as my son. My son takes a cocktail of 5 medications (some are anti-psychotics and mood stabilizers) and some are taken twice a day. Without constant supervision of making sure he takes these medications, he would not remember to take them and become violent and out of control. I monitor his every move closely and make sure he has sufficient supervision. To deny him services based on these antiquated guidelines is just plain irresponsible.

I was told I can now appeal the decision with the SC Administrative Law Court, a process that could take many more months. In addition, I may need to hire an attorney to help with the process. This is just not acceptable, nor something I can afford, and I feel that your assistance in this matter is very much warranted. If your help can save one child, Tyler, it could set precedence to loosen the restrictions on these outdated guidelines and allow many more children like him to receive the help they so desperately need.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can provide documentation from his psychiatrist and counselor stating that his condition is life-long and he is "not stable".

Sincerely,

Stacey Blodgett

From: Sheila Chavis
To: Lena Girgis
CC: Jennifer Lynch
Date: 4/20/2009 4:50 PM
Subject: Blue log# 0579 Tyler Goad

**** Confidential ****

Lena,

I talked with Ms. Stacey Bloodgett, AR and Mother of Tyler, and I was able to resolve this thru a phone call. Tyler was denied TEFRA because he did not meet level of care. I explained she has two options to appeal with the ALC or reapply for TEFRA. She stated she does not have the time or money for an attorney to appeal with ALC. I offered to send her information on Legal Aid and she stated she did not need this information. She also mentioned that Tyler's condition has changed since his Medicaid denial. I encouraged her to reapply for TEFRA but she did not want to go thru this whole process for him to be denied again. I mailed her an Augee Benefits brochure. Please note Ms. Bloodgett currently makes \$74,000.00 yearly (\$3,666.66 monthly) therefore Tyler does not qualify for any other Medicaid at this time. I talked with Carmen Bowie of the Governor's office and she said a written response was NOT needed for this family. This inquiry is closed on my end, as well as, with the Governor's office. If you need any additional information please let me know. Thanks!

Sheila Chavis
Div. of Constituent Services
(803) 898-2707