

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Myers</i>	DATE <i>10-31-07</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER 000229	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>11-7-07</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Cleaveland 11/8/07, Bittner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____
<i>attached.</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.				

717330

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2007

Referred to DUM
Answered _____

From: <sabell@hughes.net>
To: <governor@gov.sc.gov>
Date: Sun, Oct 14, 2007 2:54 PM
Subject: Governor Request Information form

Susan
Abell
1057 Abell Rd.
Blythewood
SC
29016
803-735-0043
sabell@hughes.net

RECEIVED

OCT 30 2007

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Governor Sanford - I am contacting you regarding my growing concern over the decline in sources for quality therapies for my disabled son. A couple of years ago, the clinic at Providence Northeast closed to Pediatrics citing that they can no longer afford to continue their program. We moved to Easter Seals who has also discontinued their therapies. We are currently at the Northeast Rehab Clinic (associated with Palmetto Richland) and found out that they are closing their doors and moving downtown as of October 26th. I understand all of their branches are now being moved downtown. In speaking to other parents of children with disabilities, we don't understand why this is happening. We do understand it has something to do with medicaid, but our not understanding why has to do with these children being pushed to the side and left with little to no alternatives for quality therapy without traveling out of town. At one point, I was traveling to Rock Hill 3 times a week (from Blythewood) because they had a specialized therapy no longer offered in Columbia because they could not afford to treat pediatric patients anymore because of medicaid's delay in payments and the amount they would pay for these treatments. I could bore you with my daily agenda of getting my children to school, getting to work and trying to figure out where I am going to find time to take my child downtown 2 times a week, but I won't. My purpose is to bring this to your attention in hopes that something can be done to help these children who have so much promise that could potentially remain untapped unless something is done, and soon. Thank you for reading this and I look forward to hearing from you.



State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Log # 229

Mark Sanford
Governor

November 8, 2007

Emma Forkner
Director

Ms. Susan Abell
1057 Abell Road
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

Dear Ms. Abell:

Thank you for your e-mail of October 14, 2007 to Governor Sanford regarding your concerns about South Carolina Medicaid's reimbursement rate for our Private Rehabilitative Therapy providers. The Governor has forwarded your e-mail to my attention and asked that I respond on his behalf.

Rate changes in any program involving federal funding requires approval from the federal government, in this case, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We have been working with the CMS Regional Office regarding our state's proposed rate increases for quite some time and we have just recently received approval of the new rates. Each state's rates are based on population, demographics, socioeconomic needs and the ability to pay the state match. Therefore, rates and services vary from state to state. We will be issuing a Medicaid Bulletin to all Rehabilitative Therapy service providers advising them of this rate increase.

Again, thank you for taking the time and effort to bring your concerns to our attention. It is my hope that our efforts to increase the reimbursement rates for therapy providers will keep them from considering withdrawal from South Carolina Medicaid. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact, Dr. James Bradford, Team Leader for School Based and Private Rehabilitative Therapy and Audiological Services at (803) 898-2655.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma Forkner".

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mhw