

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Jacobs</i>	DATE <i>10-17-08</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000212</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>cc: Ms. Farkner, Post Cleared 11/10/08, letter attached.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>10-28-08</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.			

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OCT 17 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

From: Alicia Jacobs
To: Jan Polaty
CC: Lena Girgis
Date: 10/16/2008 4:29 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: College student's medicaid concerns

I think we decided there would be a written response. Too much private information to explain by email. I would log it.
Thanks

>>> Jan Polaty 10/16/2008 3:42 PM >>>
Please let me know if you want this logged. thanks, Jan.

>>> Emma Forkner 10/16/2008 3:37 PM >>>
Actually, it needs to go to Alicia since this is a case of someone choosing to reside in NC instead of SC for college reasons. And, they also have health insurance. I don't know what the rules are in this case.

Emma Forkner
Director
Department of Health and Human Services
1801 Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 898-2504
(803) 255-8338 fax

>>> Jan Polaty 10/16/2008 11:18 am >>>
This came to me - Please let me know if you'd like me to log to Felicity or get Jeff to respond. Thanks, Jan.

>>> "Schrader, Amy" <aschrade@greenville.k12.sc.us> 10/16/2008 8:45 AM >>>
Ms. Forkner,

I am bringing you an issue which is of great concern to me. I am currently a foster parent and the wife of a high school football coach in Greenville, SC.

My foster son currently attends college on a football/academic scholarship at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC.

My concern is that my son cannot receive benefits from his medicaid health coverage for the months he is in school in NC because of the way each state handles its own medicaid and determines eligibility.

He has dealt with the very serious and dangerous MRSA staff infection since the summer before he went to college. All the medicaid and foster care individuals who have spoken with me and/or tried to assist me have told me essentially the same thing: Unless we can "talk the doctor in North Carolina into accepting SC medicaid" he is out of luck and not covered.

My husband and I have taken out the college's student health insurance policy, which is a bare bones policy. For example, hospitalization coverage on this policy is 80% after the \$500 deductible up to \$10,000. Hospital stays of longer than one day can result in a bill of considerably more than this maximum amount.

I have a vested interest in this situation for more than just my son, Alex. Once we adopt him and he goes on our insurance, his problem is solved.

However, we currently have two young men in our football program, not foster children, whose parent is unemployed and on public assistance, hence, so are they.

They will both be in the exact position that Alex is now, should they elect to attend school in another state. However, their problem will not be easy to fix because they are not under the umbrella of foster care AND they will not be adopted and added to anyone's insurance.

I am extraordinarily concerned for them as well. Particularly because they are such great athletes who will be offered some wonderful opportunities outside of our state and shouldn't be limited in their choices due to medicaid issues with crossing state lines. One is a senior and one is a junior. This issue will resurface soon and there will be even less I can do about it for them than for Alex.

It isn't right or equitable. I am frustrated over the way the system allows kids like this to fall through the cracks. It is an extreme disservice to them and may have already kept some young people from pursuing their dream of higher education. A tragedy that is,

In my estimation, inexcusable to allow.

Surely these three young men are not the only three in all of South Carolina this year, or any previous year, to have this obstacle in their path. What has been done in the past to give these young people the opportunities that they have worked hard for and deserve to take advantage of?

What is being done to facilitate good relationships across state lines, so that doctor's offices will accept medicaid from other states? What is being done to facilitate the rapid processing of claims in our own state medicaid offices, so that doctors who do agree to take out of state medicaid get paid in a timely manner?

Finally, what can be done now to assist these three young men as they pursue higher education in the face of overwhelming obstacles from their past and present? Is it fair to throw another obstacle before them in the form of inaccessible medicaid, when their dream is within their reach?

I look forward to your response.

Amy Schrader
Language Arts Instructional Facilitator

"Every now and then you've got to give that dead horse a good beating" -Jason McCauley

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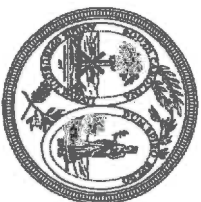
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For 05/12

State of South Carolina
Department of Health and Human Services

Mark Sanford
Governor

Emma Forkner
Director

November 10, 2008

Ms. Amy Schrader
C/O Hiram Spain
P. O. Box 10887
Greenville, South Carolina 29603

Dear Ms Schrader:

Governor Mark Sanford contacted our agency on your behalf regarding Medicaid coverage for your son, Alexzavier McCullough. Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is concerned about the health and welfare of children and is indeed concerned about your particular situation.

Since Alexzavier is attending school in North Carolina, we have made arrangements for him to receive Medicaid benefits in North Carolina. We contacted North Carolina and spoke with Carolyn McClanahan at (919) 855-4010 who agreed to cover Alexzavier under NC Medicaid. He will need to apply at the nearest North Carolina county Medicaid office where he attends school. We have enclosed verification to affirm that Alexzavier was in foster care at the age of 18. He will need to present this verification when he applies. Applying for Medicaid in North Carolina does not change his state of residence. He is still considered a resident of SC, but this allows him to have easily accessible medical coverage while in North Carolina. We are still recommending that Alexzavier apply for North Carolina Medicaid.

Additionally, we have forwarded a physician's enrollment packet to Dr. Wheaton Williams at Hickory JD Consultants to enroll into the SC Medicaid program. They are willing to treat Alexzavier while he is applying for NC Medicaid, but Dr. Williams will have to enroll as a SC Medicaid provider in order to receive reimbursement from South Carolina.

Unfortunately other children not in foster care will not be eligible for Medicaid in South Carolina or North Carolina beyond the age of 18. Neither state provides coverage for children beyond age 18 unless they are in foster care or totally and permanently disabled.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (803) 898-2502.

Sincerely,

Alicia Jacobs
Alicia Jacobs,
Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Gail Suddeth, Greenville County Supervisor

Medicaid Eligibility and Beneficiary Services
P. O. Box 8206 • Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206
Phone (803) 898-2502 • Fax (803) 255-8235