

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO *Waldrop* DATE *1-3-13*

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>001,206</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-15-13</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>C. J. Post, Deputy, Gov office</i> Ref Log # <i>10</i>			

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1. <i>* Telephone called</i>			<i>To Close for Sam W. on 2/11/13</i>
2. <i>At need to Mr. Currier</i>			
3. <i>at Friday, Jan 4, 2013</i>			
4. <i>to talk to Mr. Currier & call</i>			

returned. Waldrop



Jennifer Lynch

Ref Log # 78

Please Log

From: Cooper, Sue <SCooper@oepp.sc.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 28, 2012 2:52 PM
To: Jennifer Lynch
Subject: Correspondence from G. Reginald Cruse
Attachments: 2012 Cruse, G. Reginald DHHS DOC.PDF

RECEIVED

JAN 03 2013

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Jenny,

RE: G. Reginald Cruse
233 Farmington Court
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 356-9459 home
(803) 687-0098 cell

Forwarding a copy of Mr. Cruse's correspondence to DHHS for review. Thank you for your assistance!

Susanne Cooper
Governor's Office
Constituent Services
(803) 734-9873

233 Farmington Court
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
November 13, 2012

The Honorable Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I have heard from Ms. Cooper, Mr. Waldrep but still have no answers. You campaigned on the policy of transparency but we wonder why our questions are not answered. What are they trying to hide?

Everyone we write tells us to talk with someone else. No one is willing to talk with us about the situation. What are we to do?

Sincerely,



G. Reginald Cruse

233 Farmington Court
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
November 13, 2012

Mr. Anthony Keck, Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202 -- 8206

Dear Mr. Keck,

Last week we received a letter from Mr. Sam Waldrep, Deputy Director of this agency. In the letter he apologized for not *getting your questions and concerns addressed in a clear and consistent manner*. My first question is when have you answered my questions? Mr. George Maky could not or would not answer my questions. Mr. Waldrep likewise has not addressed my questions. His letter gives rise to other questions.

Question number one: Why was I told that I could never make decisions for my daughter by one of your employees and another tells me I am the primary caregiver? First of all explain the reasoning behind me never being able to make these decisions. Second why the change? Thirdly, why it is unusual for two individuals to be identified as primary caregivers? My wife and I are married, have been for over thirty-three years, and make such decisions jointly. Because of work schedules, and agency members refusal to discuss such matters when we are available, it is important that we both be primary caregivers.

Question number two: Why have I been given false information by this agency? Rebekah was turned down twice because I filled out the form sent by Health and Human Services, only to be told they were the wrong forms. When confronting these mistakes I was threaten to be arrested and told lies.

Question number three: Why did a parent of one of Rebekah's friends tell me that her son was able to work with a Community Choices waiver? If this is true why not Rebekah?

Question number four: Why is Rebekah number 2,538 on the waiting list? She received her first placement in August of 2011 and was number 2,697. This means she has moved up 159 places on the list. We were told that 500 waivers were issued for the fiscal year 2011-2012. If that is the case why only 159 places? Who received the other 341 waivers? At this rate it will take nearly sixteen years before Rebekah has such a waiver. At that time she will be 40 years of age and would have wasted twenty years doing nothing.

Question number five: Will Rebekah have to wait another 16 years before she receives a waiver? If the numbers you have given me are accurate then at the present rate, Rebekah will have to wait another 15.9 years. The parent of twin boys told me that one child received a waiver and the other had been on the waiting list for six years. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Keck, we have reached the conclusion that no one in this agency or any agency that works with those who are less fortunate care about their wellbeing. It appears to us it is more important to our government leaders that no money be spent on anyone for any reason. My wife and I feel as if the agency is blaming us for having a child with special needs. We did nothing to cause this, God gave Rebekah an extra chromosome. Those of us who are caregivers for people with special needs, should not have to fight for their rights like we have.

Since I wrote you the first time I have spoken to one person from your office, Mr. Maky who could not or would not answer my questions. When pressed for answers he blamed the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs. Ms. Cooper from the governor's office called and we spoke but again no answers. In Mr. Waldrep's letter he gives me someone else to call. My big question now is What are you trying to hide? Our governor campaigned on a policy of transparency yet no one wants to answer any questions. What other conclusion could there be?

Is this typical of this agency? Or am I just being punished because I advocate for my daughter and ask these questions?

My prayer is that God will give you wisdom and counsel in answering these questions for us.

Sincerely,

G. Reginald Cruse

233 Farmington Court
Lexington, South Carolina 29072
September 14, 2012

Director
S.C. Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
PO Box 4706
Columbia, SC 29240

Dear Sir or Madam:

For months we have been seeking help for our daughter Rebekah. We are beyond the frustration level for most human beings. It seems that no one want to take responsibility for those who have special needs. Now the question is what are we to do.

Why are there not enough ID waivers for those in need? If all that we have been told is true, Rebekah will be 40 when she finally receives one. Why not now? At forty it is be too little too late. As it stands many people have to make choices about placing their children in group homes or quit their jobs. We have been fortunate, but not satisfied with Rebekah's placement. There must be something better for her.

I invite you to read the letters I have written and the responses I have received. Can you be of help?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

G. Reginald Cruse
803 356 9459 home
803 687 0098 cell

South Carolina Department of
Health & Human Services



Anthony E. Keel, Director
Nikki R. Haley, Governor

October 25, 2012

Mr. G. Reginald Cruse
233 Farmington Court
Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Dear Mr. Cruse:

We received your letter of September 11, 2012, which raised several questions about your previous interactions with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) concerning your daughter, Rebekah. I know that you have discussed some of your concerns with staff during a recent phone conversation. I hope this correspondence addresses your questions in a more detailed and satisfactory manner.

Rebekah is currently enrolled in the Community Choices (CC) waiver program operated by Community Long Term Care at SCDHHS. She was referred for the CC waiver on September 7, 2011 and enrolled on October 13, 2011. Each waiver has different enrollment requirements, services and waiting lists. As a participant in the CC waiver program, Rebekah receives case management and adult day health care services; however, this waiver does not provide employment skills training and related services. The Intellectual Disabilities and Related Disabilities (ID/RD) waiver does offer these types of services.

The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDSDSN) is responsible for the day to day ID/RD waiver operations including the management of waiting lists. Currently, Rebekah is on the waiting list for both the ID/RD and the Community Supports (CS) waivers. She is number 2,538 on the ID/RD waiting list and number 2,292 on the CS waiting list, as of October 1, 2012. Waiting lists exist because there are often more people seeking services than there are funds available to serve them. Both SCDHHS and SCDDSN will continue to work together to meet the needs of individuals like your daughter.

While Rebekah is on the ID/RD and CS waivers waiting lists, she can continue to receive services under the CC waiver. Ms. Deborah Mann at the Richland and Lexington Counties Disabilities and Special Needs Board can be contacted at (803) 252-5179 to give you future updates on Rebekah's waiting list status.

Case managers are required to identify the person who should be contacted to obtain personal health care information. In your daughter's case, our staff members have sought to identify the single individual considered as the primary decision maker for Rebekah since it is unusual for two individuals to be identified as the primary caregiver. Rebekah's file currently identifies both you and your wife as primary caregivers. Our staff is aware either one of you may be contacted to discuss her health care.

We apologize for the frustration you have experienced in not only trying to meet the health care needs of your daughter, but also in getting your questions and concerns addressed in a clear and consistent manner. It is our goal to always provide support and excellent service to all families. Please contact my office if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Sam Waldrep
Deputy Director

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

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Waldrip</i>	DATE <i>1-3-13</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER <i>001206</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE <i>1-15-13</i> <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action		
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>Ceickost, Aquich, Gov office</i> <i>Ref Log #98</i>			

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Reginald Cruse'. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'G' and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

G. Reginald Cruse

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Sam Waldrep
Deputy Director