

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

ACTION REFERRAL

TO	DATE
<i>Myles</i>	<i>3-18-08</i>

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOG NUMBER	<i>100482</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature	DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	<i>No response necessary per Marga on 4/23/08. Same as log #476</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature	DATE DUE _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> FOIA	DATE DUE _____
		<input checked="" 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.			

Stanley J. Butkus, Ph.D.
State Director
Robert W. Barfield
Deputy State Director
Administration
David A. Goodell
Associate State Director
Operations
Kathi K. Lacy, Ph.D.
Associate State Director
Policy



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PO Box 4706, Columbia, South Carolina 29240
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Home Page: www.state.sc.us/ddsn/

March 14, 2008

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2008

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Gwen and Richard Macy
3907 Overcreek Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29206

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Macy:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding residential services for your daughter. You have mentioned that you have particular interest in a faith-based alternative. Your concern is that DDSN is blocking access to faith-based services.

DDSN has operated for more than a dozen years with the idea any new residential services should serve four (4) individuals or fewer. We base this on SC Code of Laws that requires us to pursue the concept of least restrictive alternative and adopt more up-to-date nationally proven service models. DDSN has and currently does contract for services with faith-based organizations.

We have met with representatives of other faith-based organizations to see where there are some common areas of interest. We identified areas where we believe there is flexibility. Previously, we have indicated we allow in-home supports to be used in homes serving more than four (4) persons (e.g. money follows the person). As we have discussed and studied this further, and taken into account your comments and those of others, we have recognized that there are instances in which we need to balance the types of service models with the idea of choice.

Consequently, we are adjusting and clarifying our position on the allowable use of residential habilitation. This will require some technical adjustments to some existing procedures. In specific terms it is our intent to allow an individual currently receiving residential habilitation funding, or who may in the future

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receive that funding, to be able to choose an alternative like a six-bed group home to meet their needs. There are two important points. First, individuals must have the funding assigned and, second, this does not mean we are funding six-bed group homes per se. What it means is that on an individual basis we are honoring the choice of a person receiving residential habilitation to select a six-bed group home setting based on need in accordance with the SC Code of Laws.

The actual mechanics of this funding will have to be determined on a case-by-case basis. I hope this clarification and adjustment is helpful. Please call Dr. Kathi Lacy at 898-9686 to discuss this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,



Stan Butkus, Ph.D.
State Director

SB/sd

CC: Emma Forkner
Sam Waldrep
Mary Leitner
Jane Thesing
Commissioner Bobby Harrell