

## #127 Waiting List Waiver numbers, Olmstead Needs Volunteers, End R-Word, etc

Dearest Advocates:

As many of you are aware, I was been appointed by Governor Perdue and now Deal to represent the disability population as a parent advocate on the Olmstead Planning Committee (OPC) for Georgia since October 2008. We are currently preparing the Olmstead Plan for Georgia and need your help. We are looking for stakeholders interested in preparing the 2012 Georgia Olmstead Plan (draft for submission to the Governor's Office). Workgroups provide an opportunity for OPC members, staff from state agencies, and stakeholders to collaborate in developing the draft plan that will be formally submitted to the OPC and state agency for review. See below for more information and details and how to RSVP.

At our last OPC meeting, Dept of Community Health distributed a Waiver Participant Data Report through January 2012. Here is some information I thought was interesting:

Waiver Name:	Active 1/31/11:	Active 1/31/12
Independent Care Waiver Program	1,004	1,098
New Options Waiver (NOW)	5,257	5,022
Comprehensive Supports Waiver (COMP)	6,003	6,244

(Waiting list for both NOW/COMP: Short Term: 2,883; Long Term: 3,259; TOTAL: 6,142)

I did ask DCH that it looks like based on the numbers above there was **NO NET INCREASE** of waiver slots for the NOW/COMP from 2011 to 2012. That was correct. Therefore, a lot of advocacy needs to be done to increase the number of families receiving waivers and getting OFF the waiting lists! Get involved and help. Go to <http://www.unlockthewaitinglists.com/>

Another awareness opportunity: Special Olympics came up with a fantastic campaign that everyone should be involved with - Please take the pledge to **NOT** use the R-word. Everyone deserves respect. Take the time to talk to your entire family as well. Education starts at home. <http://r-word.org/r-word-take-action.aspx>

Legislative 2012 continues....The 2013 budget was approved by House Appropriations in early March and is now given to the Senate for approval. In the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities budget, Georgia is counting on the Balancing Incentive Payment Program (BIPP) to fund the 100 NOW and COMP waivers for the community and for annualizing waivers for children aging out of foster care. The Department of Community Health applied for this special program available to states to help fund home and community based services. For more on the BIPP from a national perspective, click <http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/long-term-services/health-reform/balancing-incentives-payment.html> . This is great news that there may be additional funding for home and community based waivers in the future for GA (and other states). THEREFORE, Please apply and don't wait!

I wanted you to also know that I will be presenting next **Tuesday, March 27** from 10:00am-1:00PM information regarding the NOW/COMP waivers at FOCUS's office. You will need to RSVP at 770-234-9111, if interested in attending. [www.focus-ga.org](http://www.focus-ga.org).

In addition, I was asked to represent the disability population as a parent advocate on the “Medicaid Redesign for Aged Blind and Disabled (ABD) Task Force” earlier this year. Dept of Community Health (DCH) is currently looking at the possibility of **not** having the ABD populations “carved out” of the managed care organizations (that currently services the rest of the Medicaid populations in GA). Depending on how this is designed, it could have a huge impact on our population of people. I have been very vocal on my concerns and what needs to be done to insure that our needs are met and not just more paperwork, people involved and services cut. DCH is in the planning stage and developed this task force to help receive the input from those that would be impacted. I’ll keep you posted as I know more. DCH does understand that different skill sets are needed to protect the disability population and they have to be careful at not just looking at a medical healthcare model but also a social model.

Hope you find this information helpful. Have a great day!

*United- We Will Make a Difference!*

Heidi J. Moore

(Proud Mother to Jacob – 12 yrs old with Down syndrome and Leukemia and Jared- 10 years old with amazing spirit & love for his brother)

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Stakeholder Request from Olmstead Planning Committee:

OPC Members,

This email serves as a follow up to our discussion during the March 5 Olmstead Planning Committee Meeting regarding workgroups for development of an Olmstead Plan. Let me know if you would like to attend any of the workgroups and if there is someone in your network and/or staff who would like to participate. I will be sending out an email to my distribution list as well.

The initial workgroup meetings are listed below. The detailed instructions for the workgroup are attached, including the draft Olmstead Plan (dated April 2012) that we will use to begin our work and the Georgia/Department of Justice Settlement Agreement. Prior to the meeting, please do the following:

- a. **RSVP** by April 6, 2012 for each workgroup listed below if you plan to attend (cmagelund@georgia.gov) or 404-656-4261.
- b. Review the goals and objectives in the draft Olmstead Plan, are they still valid?
- c. Review and align the Georgia/Department of Justice Settlement Agreement to determine what is similar to the draft Olmstead Plan, so there is not duplication.
- d. Bring your own copy of the draft Olmstead Plan and Settlement Agreement to the workgroup. (A limited number of copies will be available at the meeting).

April 10, 2012 (Tuesday)

9:00am to 12:00pm (Noon) Mental Health

1:00pm to 4:00pm Addiction

April 11, 2012 (Wednesday)

9:00am to 12:00pm (Noon) Developmental Disabilities

1:00pm to 4:00pm Physical Disabilities and Brain

Injury

If you cannot attend the workgroup session and want to call in, please use the following number and code (RSVP is needed):

Toll-free (877) 848-7030

Access Code: 5559707

(\*\*\*All workgroup meetings will be held in the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities Conference Room, Room 26-121, 2 Peachtree Street.)

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Best,

Corinna

**Corinna Magelund**

Ombudsman and Olmstead Coordinator

Governor's Office of Disability Services Ombudsman

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Email: [cmagelund@georgia.gov](mailto:cmagelund@georgia.gov)

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If you would like to receive Jacob Moore's updates or post prayers, please go to:  
<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/prayforjacobmoore> or [www.teamjacob.org](http://www.teamjacob.org) . To watch Jacob's Cancer Journey video: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GjPfmIZ76g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GjPfmIZ76g)

For disability information and previous newsletters, please go to [www.heidijmoore.com](http://www.heidijmoore.com) .

*"Help The Children Now, So They Can Help Themselves Later!"*

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