
"UniteOurVoices" Newsletter # 146A

December 18, 2015

Dearest Advocates:

PLEASE NOTE: I stand corrected. SPADD did not have to file an open records request to receive the waiver re-write application. DCH did finally provide this document to them but it is not on the DCH website for public review. Sorry for the confusion. Heidi

I'm sorry to write to you during the holiday time frame but unfortunately, something has come to my attention that needs **IMMEDIATE ACTION**. On Wednesday, December 16 the Board for the Dept. of Community Health (DCH) approved to go forward with the COMP waiver re-write application. By law, they are supposed to have a 30 day public comment period. They are only allowing 2 weeks public comment and this is during the holiday season!

Public comment is scheduled **Wednesday, December 22, 2015, at 10:30 a.m.**, at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479.

What I was able to find on the DCH website the following:

[PUBLIC NOTICE - Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program \(COMP\) Renewal Notice, Initial Adoption - Posted 12/16/15](#)

<http://dch.georgia.gov/sites/dch.georgia.gov/files/Comprehensive%20Supports%20Waiver%20Program%20%28COMP%29%20Renewal%20PN.pdf>

Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities (SPADD) was able to obtain the actual COMP Waiver Renewal application documents. This is NOT on the DCH website, only the above information.

[Waiver Rewrite Main Module](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/COMP_Waiver_Renewal_Main_Module.pdf

[Appendix A. Waiver Administration and Operation](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_A_Waiver_Administration_and_Operation.pdf

[Appendix B. Participant Access and Eligibility](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_B_Participant_Access_and_Eligibility.pdf

[Appendix C. Participant Services](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_C_Participant_Services.pdf

[Appendix D. Participant-Centered Planning and Service Delivery](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_D_Participant_Centered_Planning_and_Service_Delivery.pdf

[Appendix E. Participant Direction of Services](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_E_Participant_Direction_of_Services.pdf

[Appendix F Participant-Rights](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_F_Participant_Rights_01.pdf

[Appendix G Participant Safeguards](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_G_Participant_Safeguards_01.pdf

[Appendix H. Quality Improvement Strategy](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_H_Quality_Improvement_Strategy.pdf

[Appendix I Financial Accountability](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_I_Financial_Accountability.pdf

[Appendix J Cost Neutrality Demonstration](#)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/b3aedadece3e6806a21c1da96/files/Appendix_J_Cost_Neutrality_Demonstration.pdf

So here is what I need for you to do:

1. Submit any comments and concerns you have regarding the COMP Waiver rewrite to DCH by 12/31/15. Comment in writing on any of the proposed changes should do so on or before **December 29, 2015**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 38406, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. (**NO email address was provided- this is another issue**).

2. Contact Gil Silva, Deputy Regional Administrator for the CMS Atlanta Regional Office to express your concerns with lack of time to review the documents (less than 30 days), lack of information (including the entire waiver re-write application) posted on DCH website AND lack of overall communication regarding the waiver to everyone impacted. E-mail address is: ROATLORA@cms.hhs.gov (phone: 404-562-7150).

3. In addition, please copy your email of concern to Jackie Glaze, Associate Regional Administrator which oversees the oversight and technical assistance for State Medicaid including Medicaid Waiver Program Development. E-mail address is: ROATLMCD@cms.hhs.gov (phone: 404-562-7359).

I have just started to review the entire document and did find one issue that I have concerns about. Under participate direction (self directed) services. The waiver application **DOES NOT** allow families the right to utilize "Personal Assistance Retainer" like providers. This is not fair and families should have the same rights to be able to retain their employees as providers. Please make a note of that in your comments to DCH! As I discover more comments in my review or from others, I will let you know.

In addition, I did want you to know that I've been appointed by Governor Deal to be on the Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities. I look forward to representing all of you as we continue to make positive change for individuals with DD in the State of Georgia!

I hope you find this information helpful and continue to advocate and speak up during this COMP waiver re-write in 2015-16.

Please note, most of the changes proposed in the COMP waiver will be carried over into the NOW waiver as well. Stay tuned for more information and how you can get involved. Happy Holidays!

"United - We Will Make A Difference"

Sincerely,
Heidi J. Moore

Parent Advocate for Children & Adults with Disabilities and Cancer

For more information and to see previous newsletters and disability information, please go to www.UniteOurVoices.com.

Join Heidi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/UniteOurVoices and Facebook Group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/435101099921721/?ref=br_tf

To follow Jacob's Journey with Leukemia, please go to: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/prayforjacobmoore> or www.teamjacob.org . To watch Jacob's Journey with Cancer video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GjPfmIZ76g

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

The material contained in this e-mail is for general information only. It is not intended in any way to provide or offer legal advice. To obtain legal advice, please consult with your attorney or a qualified legal representative.
