

Newsletter #60 Waiting Lists, Olmstead, Waivers and More

Dearest Advocates:

I am sorry you have not heard from me for a week. Much has went on in the Moore household with unfortunately medical issues with both my children, transition issues with the NOW waiver, etc. I know if anyone understands – you do.

As we go into this next year, there is going to be a lot of changes and possible difficult budget cuts due to the slow down of the economy. I can not stress to you enough the need to get involved and tell your story. Only through helping our legislators and Governor know what is important and why – are we going to continue to receive the necessary services and supports individuals with disabilities need to maximize their potential.

Last weekend I attended a Down syndrome educational conference, and it is amazing how much you continue to learn regarding advocating and speaking up with a united voice together. I am inspired again to continue this advocacy effort and I hope you feel that you have a responsibility to help as well. *United... We Will Make A Difference!*

Inspirational Video:

I received a very inspirational video about strength and pulling ourselves up when things are difficult. I know we have **ALL** been there. What an amazing story – and we **ALL** have them!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2I0DRk8dFjI>

Unlock the Waiting Lists in the United States! WE NEED YOUR HELP

There is a fantastic opportunity to advocate on a national level for funding the disability waivers that are on waiting lists across the country. Geraldo Rivera is putting together an hour show to aired on January 6, 2009 regarding the waiting lists crisis in the United States. They are looking for stories and videos. PLEASE consider getting involved at a national level. Once again- only through education – are we going to get the services and funding individuals with disabilities deserve! See below more information.

EPSDT:

Earlier this year, I let you know about EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment). This is the part of the Federal Medicaid Act that defines Georgia's responsibility for ALL Medicaid eligible children. EPSDT requires states to provide any "necessary healthcare, diagnostic services, treatment and other measures. . . to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions as covered by the Medicaid Act".

This means that services (like therapies, skilled nursing, behavioral supports, vision, diapers and wipes, etc) **MUST** be provided for children under the age of 21.

You will be hearing more about EPSDT in the months to come but I wanted you to know that Parent to Parent of GA, The Governors Council on Developmental Disabilities and The Georgia

Advocacy Office have prepared fact sheets on EPSDT. You can go to my website to get more information and print out various parent/provider fact sheets for future reference:

http://www.heidijmoore.com/pdf/advocacy/EPSDT_parents.pdf (Long Version for Parents)

http://www.heidijmoore.com/pdf/advocacy/EPSDT_parents_ez.pdf (Short Version for Parents)

http://www.heidijmoore.com/pdf/advocacy/EPSDT_professionals.pdf (Version for Professionals/Providers)

Update on NOW/COMP Waiver Transition:

I have been working with the Office of Developmental Disabilities in DHR regarding the issues associated with this transition and impacts to families. My best advice at this point is to please work with your Support Coordinator/Provider regarding verifying the Prior Authorization (budget) is correct AND that your current service provider is able to continue to provide that service given the new rate structure and contracts need.

If you are with a provider, they should be able to help you with getting your PA revised to reflect your current goals or assess if you may need an ISP Addendum. If you are self direct, you will need to discuss this with your Support Coordinator.

If you are in family crisis and are not getting the services you need to keep your individual with DD out of the hospital or institution, please let me know. The Office of DD has promised to expediate any families that are in crisis during this transition.

Personally, I have went through entire Individual Support Plan (ISP) process this week and I must say – I am exhausted. You really do need to understand the categories and services, rate/unit caps and how you can write goals to reflect the needs of your child in the ISP and get it paid for! I hope in the coming weeks to be able to put together “lessons learned” to help more families but due to time constraints and medical issues can not at the current time.

Olmstead Update:

I did want you to know that I have been appointed by the Governor’s Office to be on the Olmstead Planning Committee for the State of Georgia. As I have more information to discuss, I will let you know. All of us should understand what Olmstead is about and how that impacts individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns and the home and community based services they need to receive to maximize their potential in life! Below is a summary of Olmstead and the important events that has lead up to where we are today in Georgia. **Put it in your calendar now - -June 22, 2009 is the 10th Anniversary of Olmstead. Many events are being planned in Georgia!**

Hope you find this information helpful.

United... We Will Make A Difference!

Sincerely,

Heidi

(Proud Mother to Jacob - 8 yrs old with Down syndrome and Jared - 7 yrs old)

“Help the Children Now, So They Can Help Themselves Later!”

www.heidijmoore.com

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From the ARC of the United States:

Geraldo Rivera Takes on the Waiting List Crisis!

Videos and stories documenting the crisis needed NOW.

January 6, 2009 hour-long news special to focus on the emerging crisis for people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Visibly moved by comments from self-advocates, family members and chapter leaders at the Opening Plenary Session of The Arc's 2008 National Convention, renowned television journalist, Geraldo Rivera, electrified the audience, pledging that on January 6, 2009 - the anniversary of his expose about Willowbrook - he will present a one-hour news special to shine light on the current crisis facing people with disabilities and their families - the Waiting List.

This news expose will only be possible if chapters of The Arc, self-advocates and family members come forward IMMEDIATELY with VIDEO and STORIES that dramatically illustrate the challenge people with intellectual disabilities face today in accessing the service they need to live freely in the community.

The Arc of the United States will be working with Geraldo and his staff to gather the background information, stories, video and other media to make this show a success..... but time is very short.

Have good video to share? Send it in today.

Have a compelling story to tell? Then get to work today. Write it down or, better yet, take out your video camera and film away!

Geraldo needs stories about the crisis people with disabilities and their families are facing at all stages of the life span.

Send your video or stories to communications@thearc.org. For assistance contact Laura Hart, Director of Communications at hart@thearc.org or Stacy Monaghan, Online Advocacy Manager, at monaghan@thearc.org

Let's make this the beginning of the end of the Waiting List.

Peter

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From Mark Johnson- Advocacy Director for the Shepherd Center- History of Olmstead in

Georgia:

-1995, Case Filed, <http://www.atlantalegalaid.org/impact.htm>

-1997, CASA (now, the Community Choice Act) Introduced,
<http://www.mcil.org/mcil/news/newsr07.htm>

-1999 Supreme Court Rules,
<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/98-536.ZS.html>

President Clinton Responds, <http://www.narpa.org/clinton.olmstead.htm>

-2001, Bush Issues Executive Order,
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/06/20010619.html>

-2003, Related Lawsuit Filed,
<http://www.pascenter.org/olmstead/olmsteadcases.php>

-2003, Strategic Plan Released, Table of Contents, etc.,
<http://www.pascenter.org/olmstead/olmsteadplans.php>

-2004, Plan, Related Release,
http://gov.georgia.gov/00/press/detail/0,2668,78006749_92321069_92335799,00.html

-2008 July Voluntary Compliance Agreement (includes Olmstead Coordinator),
http://gov.georgia.gov/00/press/detail/0,2668,78006749_78013037_116646763,00.htm
http://gov.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/24/46/11946222307_15_08_02.pdf

October Olmstead Planning Committee (OPC),
http://gov.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/24/55/12426823310_01_08_01.pdf

-2009 June 22, 10th Anniversary

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

-1990-Present, Chronology, <http://adapt25.org/>

-PAS Center, http://www.pascenter.org/olmstead/olmstead_home.php?state=georgia