

80 Advocacy in Action, Special Educational Seminar

Dearest Advocates:

Great news! Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee voted to approve **NOT** cutting the Medicaid provider rates by 6% due to Federal Medicaid Stimulus Money that State of Georgia will be receiving to help offset Medicaid costs! This is good news for families due to the difficulty in finding Medicaid providers to begin with! Thanks to everyone that took the time to contact our legislators and educate them on the decisions they make impact directly families with disabilities.

In addition, below is information regarding an upcoming IEP Workshop for Parents on March 28th. The presenter is Jonathan A. Zimring an educational attorney with over 27 years of experience in special education. I will be presenting on the disability waivers in Georgia. I have the pre-registration form on my website at www.heidijmoore.com under "Events".

The AJC newspaper had an article in the Monday newspaper on SB 10 Special Needs Scholarship School Voucher program being cut. See below for more information.

In addition, Greg Kirk (advocate/consultant for individuals with disabilities) had a radio show last week discussing the Office of DD's Advocates Meeting. Many of you were not able to attend due to late notice (hopefully, that has been resolved in the future with Office of DD given announcements of meetings ahead of time on their website and via GCDD).

If you are interested in the new disability waivers (NOW/COMP) and from a providers/parent perspective, listen to his show. I also attended the meeting, but do not have time write meeting minutes (IEP season you know but this is a good way to hear another perspective on the issues and concerns of the waivers discussed at the meeting).

Please try to attend the next Office of DD Advocates meeting scheduled for June 9th at 10:00am-12:00 at 2 Peachtree on the 26th floor. Let's show our numbers and participate in the next meeting. Only through continuing to educate DHR/DCH on the issues, are we going to be able to get resolution to many of the issues families face regarding the new waivers!

Hope you find this information helpful.

"UNITED – WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"

Sincerely,

Heidi

(Proud Mother to Jacob - 9 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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IEP Workshop Information and Disability Waivers:

Attached please find information regarding an IEP Workshop for Parents, March 28th. The presenter is Jonathan A. Zimring an attorney with over 27 years of experience in special education. The program is hosted by the Children's Ministry at Mount Paran Church. Some of you may receive this more than once and if so, my apologies. Please feel free to forward to any parents interested in preparing themselves for the upcoming IEP season. Pre-registration is required. Let me know if you have any questions.

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AJC newspaper Article on SB 10: (Special Needs Scholarship School Voucher program) "Cuts, economy threaten many parents' choices"

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/printedition/2009/03/16/special0316.html>

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From Greg Kirk: Information regarding last weeks Office of DD Advocates Meeting.

In honor of the recent passing of Paul Harvey, I submit the following comments on the advocates meeting held 3-10-09. I am entitling it, "The Rest of the Story."

You have two ways to check it out:

1. Go to my web-show dated 3-12-09 and hear what I said about notes I took from the meeting. <http://www.contacttalkradio.com/>
2. Go to website and click on the page entitled Advocates Meeting 3-10-09 "The Rest of the Story" (www.disabilitiesissuesandanswers.com)

Topics covered:

1. Are allocations based solely on the SIS scores?
2. Can families who self direct be audited?

3. Is it a goal of The New Waiver to lower allocations by improving SIS scores?
4. How do families get help with issues from Acumen?

Please listen to my show or read my website, they are there for families to use to gather and share information.

Sincerely,

Greg Kirk L.P.C.

Visit me at www.disabilitiesissuesandanswers.com

Hear the show every Thursday 10am Eastern

<http://www.contacttalkradio.com/>