

## **#112 URGENT: Input needed regarding proposed rate changes for NOW/COMP Waivers**

Dearest Advocates:

Sorry for the late notice. I just found out about proposed rate CHANGES based on a study done by Burns & Associates for NOW/COMP disability waivers. Based on the presentation material, I have quickly reviewed...there are some positives and negatives to this proposed plan BUT there are some fundamental issues I have as parent whose child has a waiver:

Are families even considered a “stakeholders” in the process? Are families concerns taken into account in this process? **Families who are self directed seemed to have been left out of the ENTIRE PROCESS!**

Based on this study, it looks like they **ONLY** took providers input into account and **NOT** families who are self directed with the NOW/COMP waiver. Unfortunately, many of the proposed changes are a reduction to the rates we currently have and we can't find providers for those services now (i.e. behavioral consultation, community access, etc).

Note: several services have been proposed to be tiered based on consumers' Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) “levels”. SIS levels are groupings of consumers with similar scores on various sections of the SIS. How is this going to be administered based on children under the age of 16 don't have SIS to begin with? Families have NEVER been told what their tier is and what it means. Clearer definition is needed before this is considered in the rate model.

There are some positive changes like an increase in the respite overnight rate which was extremely low to begin with!

BUT - This is not representative of **all** those families involved and impacted by this decision. It seems to not support individual needs and seems to be more “group” oriented based on providers only input into the process!

### **WE need to speak up NOW!**

**Comments need to be made to [garates@burnshealthpolicy.com](mailto:garates@burnshealthpolicy.com) by April 1, 2011.** The detailed presentations to Dept. to Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Proposed Service Rates will be loaded on my website in the next few hours so you can see the details at <http://www.heidijmoore.com/newsletter/index.asp>

Once again, I'm sorry for the late notice. I just received this information TODAY myself. Once again, families are not being considered as a “stake holder” which is a concern I have to begin with...The process needs to CHANGE! Please take a moment to express your concerns if your child has the NOW/COMP waiver. Below is the “official letter” issues out but not to families!

***United – We Will Make A Difference!***

Heidi J. Moore

(Proud Mother to Jacob - 11 years old with Down syndrome & Leukemia and Jared - 9 years old)

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**BHDDAD Letter regarding rate issue for NOW/COMP Waivers:**

Hello,

Since summer 2010, the Georgia Division of Developmental Disabilities has been reviewing the home and community based service rates paid to its providers. Our organization, Burns & Associates, Inc., has been assisting the Division in this process.

The process has included an August 2010 provider cost survey in which all providers were invited to participated. Based on providers' input through the survey as well as other independent research, proposed rates have been developed.

These proposed rates were released to those providers that participated in the provider cost survey during a February 23 presentation at the Division's regional office in Tucker. The following documents are now being made available for public review and comment:

- Overview Presentation of Proposed DDD Rates: the February 23 PowerPoint presentation, which provides an overview of the project, methodology and inputs used to develop the rates, and the resulting changes to the rates
- Detailed Models for Proposed DDD Rates (Feb 25 2011): the complete model and the specific factors used to determine each proposed rate
- DDD Provider Survey Results: summary of the provider cost survey as well as provider-by-provider responses to each survey question (identifying information, such as provider name, has been removed) It is B&A's intent to post these materials on our website, but technical difficulties presently prevent us from doing so. To allow providers to begin commenting now, we have attached these documents to this email. We will send another email when they have also been posted on our website.

You will note that several services have been proposed to be tiered based on consumers' Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) "levels". SIS levels are groupings of consumers with similar scores on various sections of the SIS. So that you may determine the impact of these proposed rates on your organization, we will be emailing each provider a list of the consumers who they serve and the SIS level for each. B&A expects to send those lists within the next week.

On behalf of the Division, we will be accepting comments from all interested stakeholders on the proposed rates through April 1, 2011. Comments should be addressed to [garates@burnshealthpolicy.com](mailto:garates@burnshealthpolicy.com). All comments are welcomed, but the more specific the comment, the more useful it will be. Any materials that support your position can be attached to your comment. We

will be compiling the comments for the Division as well as assisting the Division in its evaluation as to whether any revision to the proposed rates should be made.

The Division will then hold another provider forum to discuss the comments received and any resulting changes, and to gather additional input. After considering stakeholder comments and making any necessary revisions to the proposed rates, the Division will finalize the rates and send them to the Department of Community Health for approval. An implementation date for the revised rates has not yet been established.

Thank you.

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If you would like to receive Jacob Moore's updates or post a prayers, please go to:  
<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/prayforjacobmoore> or [www.teamjacob.org](http://www.teamjacob.org). To make a donation in Jacob's honor for childhood cancer research, please go to:  
<http://www.active.com/donate/jumpingforjacob>. 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!"**

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.