

## #133 – Georgia NOW & COMP Disability Waivers - Information and Meetings for families

Dearest Advocates:

I wanted to send a quick newsletter out about recent issues revolving the Georgia COMP WAIVER - many of you have received a letter from Acumen on 4/2/13 that the State has reduced the Community Living support to 6.5 hrs/ day cap (verses 7 hrs before). I know this has a HUGE impact on many families. DBHDD is aware of the concerns of family and working on a resolution now (see below Dave Blanchard- Director of Division DD Service Support for DBHDD). This will be a big topic of discussion this week at our DD Advisory Council meeting. This is a great example of lack of communication; family input, etc. keep you posted....

In addition, wanted you to be aware that there is a Region 3 Regional Board meeting this week. This is a great way to communicate your concerns with the NOW/COMP waivers and if you are on planning lists.

Also- the next Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council meeting is April 17, 2013. For more information and future meetings, go to <http://dbhdd.georgia.gov/dd-advisory-council>. This is another great way to learn about issues that are being addressed and expressing your concerns.

Have a great day.

*United- We Will Make a Difference!*

Heidi J. Moore

(Proud Mother to Jacob – 13 yrs old with Down syndrome, Autism and Leukemia Survivor and Jared- 11 years old with amazing spirit & love for his brother)

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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.UniteOurVoices.com](http://www.UniteOurVoices.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.

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### **Region Three DBHDD Planning Board 4/18/13**

Please join us for our next Region Three Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Planning Board meeting:

REGION 3 DBHDD PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 18, 2013

3:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Region Three Office

100 Crescent Center Parkway, Suite 900, Tucker, GA 30084

This meeting is open to the public to solicit community input to help identify needs and gaps regarding behavioral health (mental health & addictive diseases) and developmental disabilities services so the Region Planning Board can make recommendations for the DBHDD Annual Plan. Region Three provide services to Gwinnett, Rockdale, Newton, Fulton, Clayton, and DeKalb counties.

Attend a regional board meeting to:

- Obtain information
- Express a concern
- Make a recommendation about services
- Make a complaint

The Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) administers a Medicaid and Community Based waiver program called the NOW and COMP Waivers. The NOW Waiver (New Options Waiver) provides supports to people with developmental disabilities who live in their own home or with family members and require services. Some of the services under the NOW/COMP waivers include: Community Access, Community Living Support, Community Residential Alternative, Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, Respite, Specialized Medical Supplies and Equipment, and Supported Employment. Applications for the NOW/COMP waivers are made through the DBHDD regional offices.

For questions or additional information, please email [nimoore@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:nimoore@dhr.state.ga.us) or call 770-414-2609.

Region Three DBHDD Planning Board  
Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale, DeKalb, Fulton, and Clayton Counties

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Please help us distribute this information to concerned individuals and providers...

On April 2nd, a letter was mailed by Acumen stating that under the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), the maximum number of units available to individuals using Community Living Supports (CLS) had been reduced to 26 units per day. This reduction in units had a negative impact on a significant number of persons using Participant Directed supports.

We sincerely regret the stress that this issue has caused for families and individuals using this model of service. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities is currently working with the Department of Community Health and Acumen to find solutions to address this issue as soon as possible. While we are doing that, we want to assure members who are impacted by this change that the Division of DD will find a way to ensure that families using participant direction CLS supports are paid in full so that they then can pay their providers.

As next steps are determined, additional information will be released. We appreciate your understanding.

Thank you,

David Blanchard

Director of Division DD Service Support  
DBHDD, Division of Developmental Disabilities  
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.  
Suite 22-108  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404.463.1799 - Office

770.357.1540 - Fax

[dcblanchard@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:dcblanchard@dbhdd.ga.gov)