

#134 –COMP Waiver & Deeming Waiver update and Training Opportunity with DBHDD

Dearest Advocates:

A few weeks ago a letter was issued by Acumen on 4/2/13 that the State has reduced the Community Living support to 6.5 hrs/ day cap (verses 7 hrs before). On 4/12/13 Dr. Li with Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), issued a correction letter stating that families that are participate directed and have the COMP disability waiver that utilize Community Living Support Hourly will **NOT** have their hours (units) reduced. (See below the actual letter)

Because of this issue and many other “communication concerns” within the DBHDD the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council is having an entire day dedicated in May to discuss how we can make the system better within the entire DD waiver world in Georgia. Thanks so much for everyone’s input and I will be bringing that information to this meeting next week. I do believe that communication is going to be the key to a successful program for children and adults with disabilities in Georgia and DBHDD is looking to take specific steps to make the process easier for families (and providers).

DBHDD will be sponsoring a "People Planning Together Workshop" for those families that have children and adults with disabilities on May 20-21 or May 22-23, 2013. Pre-registration is required. For more information, please go to: <http://www.uniteourvoices.com/events/index.php>

In addition, I have been told that some families are being asked to send in a “modified” list of forms for their annual renewal for the Katie Beckett / Deeming Waiver. This is a test case where some families are being asking to only fill out some of the paperwork. If you have any questions, please contact the new Katie Beckett/Deeming Waiver office directly in Norcross.

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)

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 . To watch Jacob's Cancer Journey video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GjPfmIZ76g

For disability information and previous newsletters, please go to 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.



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

Two Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 24-280, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
404-463-7945

April 12, 2013

Dear Service Members and Families:

On April 2, 2013, Acumen sent a letter to you indicating that the maximum number of units that are available for CLS Hourly (Community Living Supports-Hourly) has been reduced to 26 units per day. This was the result of a policy change last year, which resulted in unintended negative impact on members in Participant-Directed services. I apologize for any inconvenience that it may have caused you.

As soon as we were notified about the problem, I immediately talked to staff at DD Division, Department of Community Health (DCH) and Acumen. Here are our decisions:

1. We have notified Acumen to pay all billings in full for the pay period of 3/16 - 3/31/13 which will allow you adequate amounts of money to pay for services rendered.
2. We will add language in the policy to state that proposed policy change will not apply to members in Participant-Directed services.
3. DCH will notify Acumen to bill CLS (Community Living Supports) based on the rules approved in the waiver document until the policy manual can be updated.

Our commitment is that in the future, any policy change will be thoroughly discussed with stakeholders to avoid any unintended negative impact.

Regards,

Charles Li, MD, MHSA
Assistant Commissioner for
Division of Developmental Disabilities
