
"UniteOurVoices" Newsletter # 149

December 8, 2016 – CHOA Concerns Update & Advocacy Days

Dearest Advocates:

A few weeks ago I met with the Senior Vice President of Physician Practices Administration, Jill Strickland of Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) regarding concerns families and providers have with the CHOA specialty outpatient clinics and Central Contact Center. I presented what the concerns are in both areas, as well as, what are some solutions to the problem. They were very well aware of the “growing pains” they are experiencing and trying to resolve the matter quickly. I wanted to forward to you what was sent to me as a follow-up to our meeting. It is exciting they are looking at piloting a new Medically Complex Care Program in 2017 to hopefully address the concerns many families have that have medically fragile children and need better coordinated care of doctors and access to them. I hope you find this information helpful below.

In addition, as the Georgia legislative session is starting in January, I strongly recommend you get involved to help advocate for change. Please go to: <http://gcdd.org/all-blogs/advocacy-policy-alerts/2982-2017-gcdd-advocacy-days-register-today.html> for more information and how to sign up for Advocacy Days at the Capitol. Hope to see you there!

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

"United - We Will Make A Difference"

Sincerely,
Heidi J. Moore

Parent Advocate for Children & Adults with Disabilities and Cancer

For more information and to see previous newsletters and disability information, please go to www.UniteOurVoices.com.

Join Heidi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/UniteOurVoices and Facebook Group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/435101099921721/?ref=br_tf

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Children's Healthcare of Atlanta- Medically Complex Care Program

In 2017, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta will be initiating a first phase of its Medically Complex Care (MCC) Program for a group of ~50 Medically Complex patients. Patients selected have at least one of the following diagnoses:

- Cerebral Palsy
- Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy
- Microcephaly
- Mitochondrial Disease
- Developmental Delay

and a high number of inpatient admissions/ days and/or ED visits. Children's efforts will be to first focus on these patients since they are some of the most vulnerable within the system who are not already part of a coordinated medical care team. These patients are often cared for by more than 3 specialists which creates increased challenges for care coordination for families and providers.

The MCC Program will begin with a provider team to provide consultative inpatient services and care coordination for patients who have been hospitalized. In the spring, an outpatient clinic is planned for these patients to address the many medical and advanced care coordination needs that are most pressing outside of the hospital. In 2018, the clinic will be incorporated into Children's Center for Advanced Pediatrics. The Center reinforces Children's deep commitment to making Georgia's kids better today and healthier tomorrow, transforming the way patients access complex, specialized care. Children's aim is to ultimately improve the health of these patients while lessening the care burden and coordination challenges for patients' families and delivering their care in a safe and efficient manner.
