



Immediate Action Needed to Save our Services (SOS)

August 7, 2009

SCJustice.org

**Policy Makers You Must
Contact. They want to hear from
YOU!**

**Congressional District -
Commission Members:**

1st- Ms. Nancy Banov
56 Rebellion Rd.
Charleston, SC 29407
nancybanov@comcast.net

2nd. Ms. Deborah McPherson
304 Valley Springs Rd
Columbia, SC 29223
dcmcpherson@bellsouth.net

3rd. Ms. Susan Lait
308 Turkey Run
Pickens, SC 29671
aslscusa@directv.net

4th. Mr. Rick Huntress
219 Donington Dr
Greenville, SC 29615
rhuntr36@aol.com

5th. Dr. Otis Speight
2098 Diamond Head Circle
Tega Bay, SC 29708 DRSP8@aol.com

6th. Mr. W. Robert Harrell
7449 Hendersonville Hwy Yemassee,
SC 29945

TO OTHER ADVOCATES - WE NEED YOUR VOICES!

There is finally some hope that we might be able to avoid proposed cuts to the MR/RD Medicaid waiver. Voices members had a good meeting today with the Governor's chief of staff, Scott English, and the directors of DDSN (Andy Laurent) and HHS (Emma Forkner). Near the end of this meeting, Scott instructed the director of DDSN to meet with the SC Budget and Control Board to ask for permission to operate at a deficit in order to avoid cuts to MR/RD waiver services.

According to a July 10, 2009 memo from Torina Wood, Budget Analyst for the Budget and Control Board, DDSN was supposed to remit \$31,508,295.67 of "unobligated state match funds" to the Budget and Control Board by July 15, 2009. According to a proviso passed by the Legislature, these funds must be used for health care.

DDSN Director, Andy Laurent, informed the group that he will ask the DDSN Commissioners for authority to make a request to the Budget and Control Board to run a deficit in order to avoid cuts to the MR/RD Medicaid waiver.

The Budget and Control Board is scheduled to meet on August 13, 2009. The next meeting of that Board is not scheduled until December, so it's important that this gets placed on the agenda for the August meeting.

Senator David Thomas has agreed to attend that meeting asking the Budget and Control Board to allow the agency to operate at a deficit until the legislature can approve the necessary funding to

oakfire@lowcountry.com

At Larger:

Ms. Kelly Hanson Floyd

1584 Brookgreen Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
KellyHFloyd@aol.com

SC Budget and Control Board

1. Daniel T. "Dan" Cooper [R]

HWM@schouse.org

Vice President, Capstone Insurance Services, LLC,
Dist. No. 10 - Anderson Co.
Home 361 Browning Rd., Piedmont, SC 29673 Phone 864 260 4025
Office 525 Blatt Bldg., Columbia, SC 29201 Phone 803- 734-3144

2. Glenn F. McConnell [R]

Attorney/Businessman, Pres. Pro Tempore Dist. No. 41 - Charleston
27 Bainbridge Dr., Charleston, 29407
Bus. (843) 747-7554 Home (843) 571-3921, 101 Gressette Bldg., Columbia, 29201

SJU@scsenate.org

Business 803 212 6610

(NOTE: Both Sen. McConnell and Rep. Cooper both requested the LAC audit. Thank them for their efforts to hold DDSN accountable!)

3.State Treasurer Converse

Email: treasurer@sto.state.sc.us

4. SC Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom

1200 Senate Street
305 Wade Hampton Office Building
Columbia, SC 29201
cgoffice@cg.sc.gov
Phone: (803) 734-2121
Fax: (803) 734-2064

5. Governor Mark Sanford

c/o Scott English (Chief of Staff)
Mailing Address:
Chellis Phone:803-734-2016
Governor Mark Sanford
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12267

avoid cuts to MR/RD waiver services. Senator Thomas continues to be a champion for families and consumers in his attempts to hold DDSN accountable for how it spends taxpayer dollars. His assistant, Mary Riley, who has been of great help in our efforts, told me this afternoon that the Governor's Office has assured her that they will support DDSN's request to allow a deficit in order to avoid cutting MR/RD waiver services. Senator Thomas has also assured us that he will lead the way in the Senate to request funds to continue MR/RD waiver services. When the time comes, we will need you to contact your legislators.

We know that many of you are busy and may be feeling overwhelmed at the day to day task of caring for a family member who has disabilities. But we need immediate action to try to keep DDSN from cutting MR/RD waiver services. This is what we need you to do this week:

1. Contact DDSN Commissioners. Andy Laurent (director of DDSN) will be asking his Commission for permission to go to the SC Budget and Control Board to run a deficit, if necessary, to prevent cuts to the MR/RD Medicaid waiver. Contact members of the DDSN Commission and ask for their commitments to allow Laurent to make this request of the Budget and Control Board. If a Commissioner says that he/she will not support this request, please advise Voices of that Commissioner's intention to prevent the loss of home-based services.

DDSN Commission Chairman Kelly Floyd recently said that she's only received about 10 e mails since she joined the Commission. Let the Chairman know if you are concerned about the loss of waiver services and how important it is to families to preserve these services.

If you receive any negative responses, please pass those on to us so that information can be shared.

2. Contact as many of the members of the SC Budget and Control Board as you have time to contact and ask them to respond favorably to the request of DDSN to run a deficit, if necessary, to prevent reductions of MR/RD waiver services. Their contact information is listed below. It would be helpful for you to share your personal story. If your family member is at risk of institutionalization should these cuts be made, please tell them your story. The costs of institutional services, including additional people attending workshops settings, is likely to be more expensive than the services they are now providing. Also, if this request is granted, the Budget and

Columbia, SC 29211
Fax: 803-734-5167

You may also contact the Gov's Office at 803-734-2100
<http://www.scgovernor.com/contact/email/default.htm>
- link to e mail Governor Sanford

Control Board will come in to look at the financial records of DDSN to determine if funds have been spent appropriately. It would be appropriate to ask these members to take such a look at DDSN.

When the time comes, we will be asking you to make other contacts with your legislators and CMS. Thank you for your hard work. Finally, the voices of families and consumers are being heard!

SC Appleseed thanks Patricia Harrison for sharing this information with all advocates seeking health care for all.

Mission Statement:

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center is dedicated to advocacy for low income people in South Carolina to effect systemic change by acting in and through the courts, legislature, administrative agencies, community and the media, and helping others do the same through education, training and co-counseling.

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
PO Box 7187, Columbia, SC 29202
803.779.1113 ex: 100