



RICH/LEX NEWS

A DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD UPDATE

Why is *Medicaid* Important for our Service Delivery System??

Some of you may have been contacted recently by a Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist asking you about Medicaid Eligibility. We have been working to be sure everyone who meets Medicaid eligibility is eligible. If your services can be funded by using Medicaid, as opposed to 100% state funding, the dollar goes farther and allows DDSN to provide more services.

Medicaid is a health care program jointly funded by the federal and state government. It provides health care services to many of our consumers. The amount of federal government participation varies from state to state and changes each year based on per capita income. The federal Medicaid funds must be matched with state funds. In South Carolina, for every \$1 of Medicaid money, the federal government pays 70¢ and DDSN pays 30¢.

The **70¢ we get from Medicaid is called the FFP** (Federal Financial Participation) – the FFP changes every federal fiscal year and is based on per capita income

The **30¢ in State funding is called the State Match**. (please note the 70¢ and 30¢ are approximate). The money that DDSN gets from the Legislature is State Funding.

Since DDSN is funded so heavily through Medicaid it is very difficult when they get a budget cut. When they lose the state dollars they lose even more Federal dollars. (for every 30¢ in state funds they lose an additional 70¢ in federal funding) When they lose - the consumers lose because there is not funding for the programs.

DDSN is the #2 Medicaid funded agency in the State – DHHS is #1.

Medicaid funds are paid to DDSN from the SC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the state's Medicaid agency. DHHS distributes all Medicaid funds in the state. These funds are subject to strict guidelines and enforced by officials from CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services).

Each year DDSN asks the legislature for money. Much of the money DDSN receives from the legislature is used for the State Match for Medicaid funded services. If DDSN doesn't receive money from the legislature, they can't use it to fund Medicaid programs or any other program.

Please be aware that TEFRA IS Medicaid:

What is TEFRA?

Under Section 143 of the TAX Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) of 1982, states are allowed to make Medicaid benefits available to certain children with disabilities who would not ordinarily be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits because of their parents' income and other resources exceed the limit allowance. This allows states the option of extending Medicaid eligibility to children who would otherwise only be eligible in an institutional setting.

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Why is Medicaid Important for our Service Delivery System??

The following is an **EXAMPLE** we use in training:

In the following examples let's assume DDSN has been given \$14,100,000 in State Funding.

If Medicaid is Available:

State Funding @ 30%	\$14,100,000	(state funding to match the Medicaid money)
Medicaid Funding @ 70% (match)	\$32,900,000	(this is the Medicaid money)
Cost per bed	\$36,154	
Number of beds funded	1300	(the combined state and federal funding pay for these beds)
Total cost of 1300 beds	\$47,000,000	(the federal and state funding added together)

If Medicaid is NOT available:

State Funding	\$14,100,000	(the same amount of state funding as in the example above)
Cost per Bed	\$36,154	(the same cost per bed as in the example above)
Number of beds	390	There is not federal money to help pay for more residential beds; so, the state funding can pay for only 390 beds as opposed to the 1300 beds in the example above

If you have questions about your Medicaid eligibility please call your Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist.

The Budget

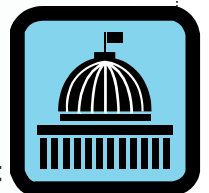


We are already hearing news about the budget. DDSN is concerned about \$40 million in one-time state funding awarded for the current year. **This funding is used as the state match for Medicaid funding, which means the total funding lost would be approximately \$170 million— that would be a HUGE cut we can't afford!** Our service delivery system needs to be sure we receive this \$40 million for next year also, or severe cuts will be implemented. Receiving this \$40 million will be a challenge. Several state agencies are already projecting budget shortfalls for this current year, and all agencies will be making their case for funding needs to the legislature. Our consumers have special needs, and we need funding to continue to meet those needs.

Legislators will gather in Columbia to begin working on next year's budget after the beginning of the new year. Be sure to stay informed about the budget debates.

Do you know who your legislators are? Do they know you?

You can contact your legislator and ask them to support people with disabilities. If you don't know who your legislator is, you can use the link below to get the information you need. You will need to enter your 9 digit zip code. If you don't know your 9 digit zip code there is a link that will find it for you.



<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/cgi-bin/zipcodesearch.exe>

Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation

Year End Giving

It's the end of the year, and many people are considering making donations to charities.

Please consider making a contribution to the **Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation** to directly support the Rich/Lex DSN Board. Your contribution makes a positive difference in the lives of our consumers.

WHAT IS THE GREATER COLUMBIA DISABILITIES FOUNDATION?

The Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation is an organization established to provide support to people who are served by the Rich/Lex DSN Board. It is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. This organization is able to accept items for donation, memorials, or direct monetary contributions.

If you are interested in donating to the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation please send your donation to:

Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation
301 Greystone Boulevard
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

We will mail you a receipt.

If you would like more information please contact the Rich/Lex DSN Board at 252-5179.

Thank you



The Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation was awarded \$5400 in grant money to provide Respite for Richland county residents.

We are grateful to Richland County for this money to help us to meet the needs of our consumers.

Respite is a service we use to support families in our community. Budget cuts have impacted this program; so, this funding is appreciated very much!

Thank you



A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
R.L. Bryan Company,
OUR NEW NEIGHBOR,
FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR MOVE
SUCCESSFUL!

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION

The Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation appreciates the generosity of those who support people with disabilities and special needs.

DONATIONS:

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Andress
Mr. and Mrs. Osmund W. Dixon
Reliable Loan Office and Pawn Shop
Center for Behavioral Health, Dr. Anil Juneja

C-Anne Able Allstate Agency
Project HOPE—Columbia
Richland County

The Back Page

When was the last time you checked your **Smoke Detector**?
Do you have a **Carbon Monoxide Detector**?

It's that time of year. It's beginning to get cooler, and people use fireplaces and portable heaters. The risk of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning can increase.

Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors Save Lives!



Be sure to change your batteries
or
install a detector if you don't have one.



Calendar of Events

Our **Board of Directors** meets the third Tuesday of every month beginning at 6:00pm. These meetings are open to the public. Please call to verify meeting time and date.

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Richland/Lexington Disabilities and Special Needs Board
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