

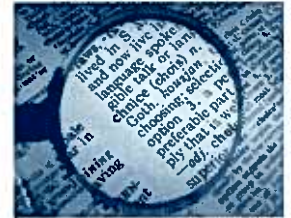


RICH/LEX NEWS

A DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS BOARD UPDATE

A Closer Look at the Medicaid Waiver

Section 1915 (c) of the federal Social Security Act enables the SC Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) to collaborate with South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) to provide Home and Community-Based Waiver programs. Waiver participants can receive Medicaid-funded services and supports in their own home and other community settings instead of in a nursing facility or institution. The cost of Medical Waiver services must be less than or equal to the cost of institutional care.



There are three types of waivers administered by SCDDSN: Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver, Head and Spinal Cord Injuries (HASCI) Waiver, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD) Waiver.

Consumers or families are allowed to choose qualified providers for their services and supports. These providers are enrolled either with DHHS or they have met the requirements as set forth in the waiver. Federal regulations require that providers of the waiver services meet minimum qualifications prior to providing services which are funded by Medicaid. HASCI, MR/RD, and PDD Waiver services are provided based on identified needs of participants and within certain limits. Enrollment in waivers is based on a limited number of slots available each year.

If you would like more information about Home and Community Based Medicaid Waivers administered through the SCDDSN or if you would like to make an application for a waiver please contact us at 252-5179.

Consumers could be eligible for “free money”

The IRS is giving away money to most people in the US. To get your free money you will need to file a tax return for 2007 even if you normally are not required to file. If you made at least



\$3,000 from employment, SSA, VA benefits, retirement, and other sources other than

SSI, you are probably eligible. You must claim yourself as a dependent on your return to be eligible. For more specific assistance please contact your tax preparer or the IRS.

Monthly Car Seat Checks



Safe Kids Midlands sponsors free monthly car seat checks at the following locations:

- ◆ EdVenture Museum– 2nd Tuesday of every month, 5pm-7pm
- ◆ Herndon Chevrolet– 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-1pm (Starting in May)

This is a good opportunity for parents to find out if their child’s car seat is properly installed.

When was the last time you checked your smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector? A simple battery check could save your life or the life of someone you love!





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Executive Director

A Message from the Executive Director
to Medicaid Waiver Participants

Who is your chosen provider?

You should be hearing the words "Who is your chosen provider" or "Which provider would you like to use" from your service coordinator or early interventionist. Whatever the service you or your family member receives – you should make an informed choice of qualified providers. It is your right to choose your qualified provider. Minimally, you should be offered a choice of providers during the annual planning meeting and each time a new need is identified or your need or needs change. You can initiate changing your provider if you are not satisfied with the services you are receiving by calling your service coordinator or early interventionist.

You have the right to change your provider at any time; however, you must contact your service coordinator because he or she must authorize the service for you. If Medicaid waiver services are not authorized properly there are billing and payment issues.

I would encourage you to attend one of our information sessions about the Medicaid Waivers. They are informative, and they will help you understand how to use the waiver. Our next scheduled session will be May 7, 2008 at noon and 6:00pm at the Rich/Lex DSN Board. If you ever have questions about the Medicaid waivers please do not hesitate to contact us.

Transportation

Five Points Wheels is a new transportation service available to people living in the 5 Points area of Columbia. For more information and to find out if you qualify please contact the Capital Senior Center at 803-779-1971 ext. 18 or visit <http://www.capitalseniorcenter.com/>.

The Harbison area has an established Wheels Program. For more information please call 803-749-1911 or visit <http://harbisonwheels.googlepages.com/home>.



If you are interested in being part of the steering committee for the new Northeast Wheels Program they meet the 4th Wednesday of each month at 9:30am at Northeast Presbyterian Church. For more information call 803-779-1971 ext. 17.

Calendar of Events

- ◆ Medicaid Waiver Information Session. May 7, 2008, 12:00pm and 6:00pm. Rich/Lex DSN Board.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Commission of the South Carolina Disabilities and Special Needs holds monthly meetings every third Thursday at 11:00am in conference room 251 in the central administrative office, 3440 Harden St. Extension. These meetings are open to the public.
- ◆ People On The Go– Self Advocacy Group meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm the American Red Cross building at the corner of Bull and Harden St.



Do you have an interesting story you would like to share with us for this publication? Please contact

Sara M. Rieger
252-5179 ext. 392
srieger@rldsn.state.sc.us
for further information.

If for any reason you would like to be removed from the mailing list contact Sara at the above phone number.

Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation



Announcing the 4th Annual Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation Golf Tournament

Thursday, October 9, 2008
Golden Hills Golf and Country Club

Registration fee is \$75.00 per person or \$300 per team. This includes green fees, golf cart, refreshments while playing, and breakfast and lunch.

Being a sponsor of the Golf Tournament is a great way to affiliate your organization with the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation and to increase awareness of your organization in the community.

To register your team or for sponsorship information please call Sara M. Rieger at 252-5179 ext. 392.

Thank You Time Warner Cable!

Time Warner Cable has chosen the Greater Columbia Disabilities Foundation as the charity for their golf tournament. Their tournament will be held at the Columbia Country Club, April 14, 2008 at noon.

For more information please visit: <http://www.twcsc.com/golf/welcome.htm>.



Please Accept Our Sincere Appreciation

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

Memorials

- Dr. Woodward James Dixon*
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Paula McFadden
- John and Jane Lambert*
Mary Ann Perry

We would like to extend our deepest thanks for all those who supported our consumers during the holiday season.

- * Matt Carson and Wal-Mart on Bush River Rd.
- * Reid Bolyson and Reid's Grocery
- * People On the Go
- * Hammond School
- * SC Employment Security Commission
- * Families Helping Families



Tips When Choosing a Caregiver



- ◆ Interview potential caregivers in person.
- ◆ Look for a caregiver who communicates and listens well.
- ◆ Give the caregiver the opportunity to speak-up and to be candid
- ◆ Make sure the caregiver is compatible with you and your family member.
- ◆ Help the caregiver to understand how to communicate with you and your family member.
- ◆ Make sure the caregiver is familiar with special medication and adaptive equipment.
- ◆ Practice any emergency procedures that may be necessary.
- ◆ Provide specific written instructions.
- ◆ Describe and familiarize the caregiver with dangerous or unusual symptoms associated with your family member's disability.
- ◆ Get and Check references – have a background check conducted on the caregiver you decide to hire.

Information obtained from: Choosing a Caregiver, A guide for individuals and families with special needs.

The Back Page

Don't be a hardhead—



Wear Your Helmet!

Rich/Lex DSNB is located at:
420 Rivermont Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210

Our Phone and Fax:
802-252-5179
803-252-5981(fax)

Our website:
<http://www.rldsn.org/>

Co-Op Respite Program

Central Baptist Church
3625 Clement Rd
Columbia, SC 29203

- 2nd Saturday of every month
- 2:30pm to 5:30pm
- Parents have to volunteer once every four times.
- Siblings are welcome.



To sign up or for more information call
Wanda Brown at 788-1199 or the church at 252-3742.

Let's Get Physical!



The A.C. Jackson Wellness Center has a program for the elderly and people with disabilities. Silver Sneakers classes are held on:

- Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- 9:00-10:00am.

For more information and membership fee information please contact Denise Johnson at 803-776-2936.

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