

Subject: Important Message from Mary Leitner, Executive Director of Rich/Lex DSN Board

Please be aware the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is proposing drastic changes to Targeted Case Management, or TCM (that is their term for Service Coordination). These changes will impact both Service Coordination and Early Intervention. While there are several changes, we anticipate that two in particular will drastically change your service coordination services. The changes include implementation of a: **market based universal rate** and a **benefit limit**.

A public hearing has been scheduled for: **Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 10-11:30am**, at the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), 11th Floor Conference Room, 1801 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. We realize this is short notice and during work hours.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, you may email: [comments@scdhhs.gov](mailto:comments@scdhhs.gov). All comments must be received by the close of business January 31, 2012.

- These changes have the potential to drastically impact your service coordination service. The “market-based rate” will be a cut to our budget. We do not want to cut services to the state’s most vulnerable citizens. The proposed rate will be applied to many different case management agencies serving different types of populations. Our consumers have unique needs and require more intensive interventions because of the nature of their disabilities.
- The changes will most certainly result in a significant loss of early interventionists and service coordinators.
- These changes could result in very high caseloads, possibly 80 or more consumers on each caseload. Increased caseloads will make it very difficult for service coordinators to be as responsive as you or they would like. It will also make it very difficult for them to get to know your family and your unique needs.
- We are being told that the changes will not impact our Medicaid Waiver participants at this time. However, we want to be sure none of our consumers are impacted, and we do not know if there will be future changes for the waiver participants.
- The proposed benefit will cap the amount of Service Coordination you can receive. We do not know the limit at this time. But, we want to be sure we have the ability to provide you with service based on your need, not based on a benefit limit.

*We need your advocacy. Please show your support for early intervention and service coordination.* Please attend the public hearing and support service coordination. Let DHHS and your legislators know that these changes adversely impact our citizens with disabilities and special needs. Let them know what your service coordinator or early interventionist does for you. Please let them know these vulnerable citizens do not need a budget cut!

If you have any questions or need more information please do not hesitate to contact us at 252-5179. Thank you for your continuing support.