

Saturday, April 9, 2011

Good Afternoon Everyone!

First off, I know this has been a very rocky start for the month of April. I want to thank everyone for their support in contacting the media, participating in rallies and contacting Tallahassee about the need to continue Medicaid Waiver Services without cutting the current rates. A big thank you goes out to the providers who, despite not knowing what the future holds, continue to provide services to ensure that the people we care about are safe and healthy!

There have been changes in the ABC (*Allocated, Budget & Control*) system daily. Support Coordinators are unable to send out service authorizations to providers and everyone has been requested not to bill so that the ABC system can be corrected. I know this is difficult for many of us who survive paycheck to paycheck. Please hang in there! In looking in ABC Unit rates are back to the 1:1 ratio for all services based on the new rate chart. Earlier this week they were at a 1:3 ratio. This is good news despite the fact that the unit rate still has been cut 15-40% for some providers depending if you were a solo provider or an agency.

Thank you for all you do!
Faith Brake Independent
Medicaid Waiver Support Coordinator

I am adding excerpts from emails that I have received over the last week.

- There is an unconfirmed appearance of Governor Rick Scott on **Sunday, April 10, 2011** at the Tampa Bay Downs, 11225 Racetrack Rd., Tampa, Florida 33626 from 11:30-12:30 p.m. I am sure Scott would appreciate your support as there is going to be a rally against the rate cuts. Wear RED & Bring your signs!
- It is time that we organize as one huge unit, not individual Corporations. It is time that we come together and determine which direction we will collectively throw our energy into. Richard Lilliston, CEO of HARC has offered up his facility to discuss what our plan is going to be as a group. We will meet at 7 p.m., **Thursday, April 14, 2011** at HARC 2714 West Kirby St, Tampa FL. Please join us there. Seating is limited to 150 so please RSVP to sallydill@wisadventures.com and rlilliston@hillsarc.com.
- The Tallahassee Autism Support Coalition, Inc., in cooperation with the Florida Self-Advocacy Alliance announces the **MILLION DISABLED MARCH** on **Wednesday, April 13, 2011** at around 10:00am in protest to cuts in services through the Med Waiver and other supports. The 'MILLION DISABLED MARCH and RALLY is an event planned and organized by the Florida Self-Advocacy Alliance (FSAA), an partnership of individual disability self-advocates and self-

advocate-led organizations throughout the state created to provide one independent voice and a united front for persons with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities. To contact Jarl for more information, call (850) 412-0141 or email jarlkjackson@yahoo.com. *"Everyone is welcome to join us!"* Jarl asks everyone who can to join himself and others before 11:00am in the courtyard between the First Presbyterian Church, at the corner of North Adams Street and East Park Avenue and its Education Building, downtown. *"We will move up to the corner and cross the street, then march on the sidewalk up to the Capitol, where will rally underneath the eyes of our legislators and, perhaps, governor."*

- www.Medwaiver.com has posted a video of an interview with Jane Johnson, Policy Coordinator for the Governor and Jennifer Peter Ungru, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Governor; regarding the rate cuts. Jane has a salary of \$110,000 and Jennifer \$100,000 a year and did not receive a cut. This video is from the rally in Tallahassee from Wednesday, April 6, 2011.
- Disability Rights Florida is tracking the loss of services. Please let them know if you have lost services due to the rate cuts. http://disabilityrightsflorida.org/resources/disability_topic_info/category/dd_waiver_provider_rate_cuts/
- This is a new website to help providers WSC's & families. Make sure you use it. Report how cuts are affecting you. <http://www.sos-florida.com/index.html>
- As Advocates, we need to continue to let our voices be heard as the budget for the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2011 and we do not desire to be in the same situation we are today. [Please contact your representative](#). As our individuals age, they require more care and assistance, their medical conditions decline as do their primary caregivers and Florida does not have the funding to provide assistance to everyone who needs it. The HCBS waiver provides services to over 35,000 individuals with over 19,000 on the waiting list. I do not know what the solution is but we all will need to step up a bit more, make our voices heard and speak up for those who are unable to speak up for themselves.
- *"Since Monday, over 3,500 Floridians each wrote 162 emails to lawmakers to advocate for funding of our developmentally disabled. THAT'S OVER 567,000 EMAILS!!! Your voices were heard! The Senate will fund the deficit. Now the Governor must (should) rescind the cuts. Thank you for taking action and for your advocacy!"* -Susan Goldstein (Governmental Consultant, Former Florida State Representative) **Meaning:** They found money for the deficit, but it's still up to the governor.

- ✓ Jenn Peters Ungru, Deputy Chief of Staff 850 / 488-5603 (phone)
850/ 487-0801 (fax)
- ✓ Jane Johnson, Policy Coordinator, 850-488-7810 (phone) 850/ 487-0801 (fax)
- ✓ House Speaker Dean Cannon: Fax 8509220144
- ✓ Senate President Mike Haridopolis: Fax8507523133
- ✓ House Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera: Fax 8504874758
- ✓ House Minority Leader Ron Saunders: Fax 8509225912
- ✓ Senate Majority Leader Andy Gardiner: Fax 8504875842
- ✓ Senate Minority Leader Nan Rich: Fax 8504875841
- ✓ House Budget Chair Denise Grimsley: Fax 8504148737
- ✓ Senate Budget Chair JD Alexander: Fax 8504875640

Contact Governor Rick Scott:

<http://www.flgov.com/contact/>
rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com

Find your legislature representative and email them:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Find>