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From: Marnie Braswell [mailto:mbraswell@CSBMG.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 4:58 PM

To: My Opinion

Subject: ABD Medicaid Concerns

Importance: High

The CMOs have been a barrier to SED consumers being able to get the services they need in order to function at home, school and in the community. With the Child and Adolescent Programs the presence of CMOs have been detrimental. Many times consumers are denied needed services and are offered alternatives that do not fit what the consumer needs as they often only approve services where consumers are required to travel in to clinic. This is especially troublesome in the rural, economically deprived areas.

Since CMOs have been present many children have had services that were previously approved by Medicaid denied. Our CSB has met the demands of the CMOs in trying to get services approved for the youth we served to no avail. Many times the authorization rules are changed constantly without notification on what is required on authorization summaries and that is the reason why services are denied. Also we are only given minimal units per request and most of the consumers we serve are in severe and in great need of services.

We are often told that CMOs follow the Medicaid guidelines. We have found that to be untrue. Also the inconsistencies between the different CMOs have caused great problems. We are finding that most of the time our staff are tied up with trying to get the authorization for services instead of being able to serve the consumers in need.

If the changes are made where CMOs become involved with being in charge of approval of services for the ABD Medicaid getting services it will be a travesty. Most of the consumers who fall into these categories are in severe need of services. It is frightening to think that the CMOs will cut services for those in great need.

Our greatest concern regarding the Medicaid redesign that the ABD population will experience the same barriers to treatment that have essentially decimated services to our children. During this current redesign process it is encouraged that the State of Georgia also revisit the CMO oversight for Child and Adolescent services as well.