

March 3, 2009

The Honorable Jay Emler
Chairman
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Statehouse, Room 537-N
Topeka, KS 66612

The Honorable Kevin Yoder
Chairman
House Appropriations
Statehouse, Room 140-N
Topeka, KS 66612

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Ranking Member
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Statehouse, Room 162-E
Topeka, KS 66612

The Honorable Bill Feuerborn
Ranking Member
House Appropriations
Statehouse, Room 132-N
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing to inform you that on Monday, March 2, 2009, I directed that the freeze be partially lifted on access to the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waiver for persons with physical disabilities (HCBS-PD), and that a rolling waiting list be instituted.

As you are aware, a freeze in access to services for the waiver was instituted on December 1, 2008, because the program was projected to overspend appropriated funding due to an increase in demand for these services. Since that time the Governor included an additional \$8.4 million in state funds in her FY 2009 budget to maintain services for persons currently on the waiver, and the Legislature in 2009 S.B. 23 allocated an additional \$2 million in state funds in FY 2009 to provide additional resources and begin a rolling waiting list for services. Consistent with legislative intent, a rolling waiting list has now been instituted. The rolling waiting list will allow one individual to enter the program for every two individuals that leave services. Unfortunately, the level of funding approved in 2009 S.B. 23 is not sufficient to fully fund this action in FY 2009 or to make this action permanent in FY 2010. Without additional funding, it is likely that the freeze will have to be reinstated at a later date. An additional \$2.2 million from State General Fund in FY 2009 and an additional \$8.5 million from the State General Fund in FY 2010 is required to continue a rolling waiting list at this service level. The agency will continue to reassess the situation once the Legislature has passed a FY 2010 budget to determine if adequate funding is available to continue the rolling waiting list into FY 2010 or lift the freeze.

Thank you for your past support and commitment to SRS and our clients, and especially your support to persons with physical disabilities.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Docking State Office Building, 915 SW Harrison Street, 6th Floor, Topeka, KS 66612-1570
Voice: (785) 296-3271 • Fax: (785) 296-4685 • TTY (Hearing Impaired): (785) 296-3487

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Jordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "J".

Don Jordan
Secretary

cc: Senator Stephen Morris, Senate President
Representative Michael O'Neal, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Davis, Minority Leader
Senator Anthony Hensley, Minority Leader
Representative Peggy Mast, Chair, Social Services Budget Committee
Representative Jerry Henry, Ranking Member, Social Services Budget Committee
Senator Carolyn McGinn, Chair, Senate Ways and Means SRS Subcommittee

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