

September 26, 2024

TO: Representative Will Carpenter and Special Committee on Targeted Case Management
FROM: Brenda Davis, mom and legal guardian to Amber Rodriguez
RE: Concerns for targeted case management (TCM) for my daughter

Dear Legislators,

I, Brenda Davis, would like to voice my concerns for targeted case management (TCM) for my 33 year old daughter, Amber, who has Down Syndrome.

Amber has had Lakemary as her TCM since she was in child services and now into her adult years. Until recently, she had never had Lakemary before now as a day or residential service as it was not needed. However, she now has Lakemary for not only her case management, but also as her day service provider. This is because her last day and residential service provider was shut down by the state and Lakemary was the only available provider at the time for her. I had called the CDDO for help finding a new provider and many were already filled. She has flourished there for over a year now is very happy because she has the same people to care for her as when she started. Her behaviors have greatly improved and the staff knows how to manage her well. She looks forward to her same routine that has been established there.

Her case manager at Lakemary, David, has been super helpful not only to Amber, but to me as well and we have great communication. He has been instrumental in getting her into the residential service she is in now. He is continually helping me with suggestions and whatever needs would benefit her life and daily living skills. It would be detrimental if we had to start over with a new case manager and try to get them up to speed on all we have already accomplished. Amber has had many medical and behavioral challenges throughout her life and now she is the happiest she has been in a long time. Amber knows David and she is very receptive to him. She has so many people in her daily life that keeping them in place is a great benefit to her functional way of life.

Her residential service is with a different provider, AbleLight, and she is very well taken care of and loves the home where she is which is very close to her day service. Her caregivers are very attentive and see to her needs and communicate regularly with me.

I urge you to continue to allow people with special needs to keep in place the individuals (TCM) that keep their lives at great deal of consistency. Thank you for your time in hearing me as an advocate for my daughter.

Brenda Davis, mom and legal guardian to Amber Rodriguez