

September 16, 2024

TO: Representative Will Carpenter and Members of the Special Committee on Targeted Case Management

FROM: Deborah and John Biondo

RE: Written Testimony from Family

The changes suggested to how Targeted Case Management Services should be delivered will most certainly lead to a decreased quality of care for Jennifer, our 42-year-old developmentally disabled daughter. We chose JCDS for case management years ago because we determined that JCDS had the depth necessary to meet her needs. They have guided us over the years in the many decisions involved in Jennifer's care.

We later chose JCDS for residential services and Jennifer has received good care since she moved into a group home when she was 24 years old. Jennifer needs to stay in her current group home. She has a handicapped bathroom which is a necessity now that she no longer walks and is wheelchair bound. Thus, we need to keep JCDS for residential.

This means we would lose JCDS for case management which will lead to a loss of continuity. The JCDS case management staff knows Jennifer which makes for better care at the group home when issues arise. JCDS has the power of numbers as far as staffing. They train their employees routinely. JCDS arranges for Jennifer to see a nurse practitioner for her behavioral medications. There is a staff nurse and a physical therapist available for consultation. When something breaks at her group home, the JCDS maintenance staff makes the repair. We cannot imagine splitting the JCDS residential from the JCDS case management.

Jennifer has day services at Lakemary Center so no change is needed in this regard.

Sincerely,

Deborah and John Biondo