



Connecticut's Partner in Brain Injury Prevention & Recovery for More Than 30 Years

March 11, 2016

Richard McGreal
Associate Regional Administrator
Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
JFK Federal Building, Government Center, Room 2275
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. McGreal:

For over 30 years, the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut has served as an advocate and resource for individuals, families and professionals impacted by brain injury. BIAC has worked with DSS for many years in helping to identify how to best meet the needs of the brain injury community.

As noted in previous communications with your office, DSS has been unable to move new participants onto ABI Waiver II for many months, due to staffing issues. While we recognize that DSS is proposing the contracting of case management services to resolve this issue, we remain concerned that, in the meantime, individuals who are ready to and should be receiving community services are languishing.

It is BIAC's understanding that services under a HCBS 2015C Medicaid waiver program are not an entitlement, and enrollment and access to services are based on state resources at any given time. While we understand this limitation, we are nevertheless, very concerned about the lack of available resources within the Department to adequately meet the needs of eligible waiver applicants throughout the state.

Notwithstanding insufficient resources, The Department of Social Services has a responsibility to aggressively move forward in meeting their obligation to fulfill the mandates of the ABI Waiver II for filling the approved slots as outlined in the CMS approved application.

We urge you to work with Connecticut to resolve the crisis and move forward quickly in assuring that those who have been waiting up to three years for services are finally able to access them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Peters", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Julie Peters, CBIS
Executive Director

Cc Kathy Bruni
Commissioner Roderick Bremby

200 Day Hill Road, Suite 250 ■ Windsor, CT 06095

Phone (860) 219-0291 ■ Fax (860) 219-0568

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