

Governor Hassan and Members of the Commission on Managed Medicaid;

We are members of ABLENH and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you Governor Hassan for everything that you do to ensure that all people have equal rights in NH. Thank you for also creating this Commission to ensure that people have a health care delivery system that is fiscally responsible and that is person centered.

ABLENH is a grass roots organization that advocates for the full participation of people with disabilities by connecting families, influencing public policy and improving systems of supports. We are mostly self-advocates or have a family member with a disability. Our goal in participating in these meetings is to ensure that people with physical/developmental or mental disabilities have a voice in this new model of health care that is being created in NH.

We respect and honor the work of the Commission around this topic and are confident that together we can ensure that the rights of the consumer are being protected. We do however have concerns about some key areas regarding the implementation of Managed Care in NH.

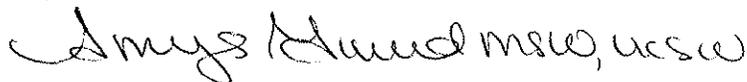
One of the key areas of concern is the delivery model of prescription medications. As you have heard in previous meetings, there have been many instances where people are not receiving the medications that are ordered by their physician and have been forced to use medications that are only on the MCO's formulary. This has resulted in set-backs for people with mental illness, chronic health conditions, and developmental disabilities. The increased paperwork that providers are being asked to complete has resulted in delays in medical care to patients that are in critical need. It also serves as an additional burden to an already challenged health care system.

ABLE NH is concerned that the Managed Care and the pharmaceutical companies are not providing the services to people that they require in order to live full and productive lives. ABLENH is asking for transparency from the Managed Care Companies regarding their pharmacy contracts, expenses, and revenue as it pertains to pharmacy and their internal process for approving or denying medications. This will provide accountability on the part of the Managed Care and pharmaceutical companies as well as providing the consumer with education on how to best manage their care. In order to best assist the citizens of the State of NH, we would like this information presented to the Commission and to ABLENH by the next commission meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

MEMBERS OF ABLE NH

Amy S. Girouard, MSW, LICSW co-chair of ABLENH Task force on MCO

Handwritten signature of Amy S. Girouard, MSW, LICSW.

Denise Colby co-chair of ABLENH task force

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