

September 26, 2012

Dear Silver State Health Exchange Board Members:

I am a Speech/language Pathologist with over 20 years' experience of working with children from birth to 3 years old. I understand the Board will be making a decision to choose a State insurance plan for people currently uninsured. I wanted to strongly urge the Board to choose a plan that allows all service therapies (Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, etc.) to be available to families with children with all types of delays. I have seen the benefits of an Early Intervention team (Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Developmental Specialists, ABA Specialists, etc.) working together to provide quality services to children with all types of special needs. The team approach has resulted in our children developing skills necessary to function successfully in their natural environment.

From my experience and the documented research, many of our children display delays with no physical or neurological hard signs but respond to research based treatments. It is important for our young children with special needs to have access to services and so I urge the Board to choose a plan that encompasses both habilitation and rehabilitation services. I am also concerned about setting limits on therapy services since many on our caseload require ongoing treatment to support the child in his/her environment. It is imperative that our children with special needs, whether due to Autism, Down Syndrome, Speech /language and/or Developmental Delays, are able to obtain quality services at an affordable price. Your support in choosing a plan that covers all types of therapy services will help improve the lives of the children and families with special needs and also be cost effective in the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: woozu@frontiernet.net

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Valerie Grinsell, M.A., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
482 Lilac Drive
Spring Creek, Nevada 89815
775-777-4686