

We cannot overemphasize the importance of ensuring that Medicaid consumers of the above programs have full and complete access to ABI Resources services.

We are committed to working together with you and your organization to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. We urge you to respond to our inquiries and to work with ABI Resources to address any concerns or issues that may arise.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros



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From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:43 AM

To: erin.kane@ctcommunitycare.org <erin.kane@ctcommunitycare.org>

Subject: Subject: Comprehensive Inquiry: Referral Process, Provider List, and Care Manager's Role

Dear Erin,

Thank you for your prompt and informative response to my inquiry about Connecticut Community Care's referral process. I appreciate the detailed explanation you provided and the clarification on the provider selection criteria.

I understand that Amy Dumont from DSS will be able to address my questions regarding documentation and eligibility. I look forward to her input on these matters.

In the meantime, I have some additional questions for you. Can you please elaborate on the electronic randomization process used for provider selection when a client does not indicate a preference? I am curious to learn more about how the system works to ensure a fair distribution of referrals. I have a few additional questions to help me better understand the referral system:

Provider List:

- a. Approximately how many agency providers are currently in the Connecticut Community Care referral system? Understanding the number of providers in the system will give me a better idea of the diversity and range

of options available to clients.

- b. Who provides Connecticut Community Care with the list of agency providers included in the referral system? Is there a specific department or organization responsible for maintaining and updating the list of providers?
- c. How often is the list of agency providers updated? Is there a regular schedule or is it updated on an as-needed basis?
- d. How may we ensure that ABI Resources is listed within the system for all areas and services? May I see how ABI Resources is listed within your system?

Electronic System:

- a. What is the name of the electronic system used for randomizing provider selection when a client does not indicate a preference?
- b. Can you please elaborate on the electronic randomization process used for provider selection to ensure a fair distribution of referrals?
- c. Who is responsible for managing the referral system and ensuring its smooth operation? Is there a specific department or organization responsible for maintaining and updating the list of providers?
- d. Could you please elaborate on how the selected provider is presented to the care manager? Additionally, how is this selection subsequently presented to the client? Are there specific steps or protocols followed to ensure clients are fully informed and understand their options?

Regarding the role of care managers in the process:

- a. What is the care manager's role in presenting agency providers, such as ABI Resources, to clients during the referral process?
- b. How do they ensure that clients are well-informed and make the best choice based on their needs and preferences?
- c. Do all care managers have access to the electronic system used for provider selection? If so, are they able to operate the system independently, or is there a specific protocol they must follow? Could you please elaborate on the level of involvement and autonomy care managers have when utilizing the electronic system during the referral process?

I want to take a moment to emphasize how much we value the information you have provided and will continue to provide about Connecticut Community Care's referral process. This knowledge not only helps ABI Resources better navigate and understand the system, but it also enables us to more effectively serve the brain injury population.

By comprehending the intricacies of the referral process, we can work closely with care managers, adapt our services to meet clients' specific needs, and ensure that clients are presented with the most accurate and relevant information about ABI Resources. This collaborative approach is essential in empowering clients to make informed decisions about their care, which ultimately contributes to better outcomes for those affected by brain injuries.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing assistance and dedication to helping us serve the brain injury community more effectively.

Understanding the involvement of care managers in the process will help us better collaborate with them and support clients effectively. Your insights are greatly appreciated, I look forward to your response and any additional insights you can provide on this topic.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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9 months -- Care Management Neglect of Historical Information Sharing with CBT Behaviorist for ABI Waiver Program Survivor EB

ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Fri 9/1/2023 6:47 AM

To: Commis DSS <commis.dss@ct.gov>; Amy Dumont <amy.dumont@ct.gov>

Cc: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Date: August 31, 2023

To: Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS)

From: ABI Resources

The ABI Waiver Program aims to assist individuals with Acquired Brain Injuries, facilitating their integration into community settings and ensuring they lead self-directed lives. Central to this program's success is the transparent exchange of information by Care Management to all involved professionals.

Report of the Meeting:

During a recent team meeting for ABI Waiver Program survivor EB from Griswold, CT, the CBT behaviorist highlighted the following concern:

In the past 9 months of providing weekly therapy services to EB since January, the behaviorist did not receive any historical behavioral or background information about EB from Care Management.

The absence of information from Care Management poses questions about the necessity and justification of the weekly ABI Waiver behavioral services being provided and billed to Medicaid. How can a behaviorist deliver effective services without prior knowledge or specific directives?

During this meeting, the Care management explained they had no information about the consumer but would look at the client's records next week when they go to the office, the behaviorist then approached ABI Resources for past and current medical and therapeutic data. However, ABI Resources provides non-medical/therapeutic support, potentially complicating the behaviorist's request.

The Cognitive Behavioral therapist raised concerns to the consumer and team about the consumer's lead medical rehab doctor's abilities and prescriptions. Such concerns have unsettled the consumer, making them contemplate seeking a new prescriber and potentially not adhering to their medication regimen. Notably, EB has been with their current doctor for over 15 years.

Implications:

Program Integrity: ABI Waiver care management consultation services are built on organization thorough information sharing and communication. A lapse in this

regard undermines the quality of care as well as concerns for Care management consultation service billing that may not be provided.

Consumer Safety: Operating without a complete background can endanger the consumer, therapist, and service providers.

CBT Medication Concerns: Uncertainties regarding EB's medication necessitate immediate investigation and resolution.

Concerns Raised:

Clarity is required on the interventions the CBT behaviorist has employed with EB since January. The obstacles created by the missing historical data and the highlighted medication worries are urgent.

Request for Action:

Immediate Sharing of Information: Care Management must swiftly relay all pertinent historical details about EB to the CBT behaviorist and ABI Resources.

Audit of Care Management Protocols: An assessment should be initiated to discern the cause of this neglect and avert similar oversights for other clients.

Training: Provide comprehensive training for Care Management consultation services and behavioral providers to ensure an understanding of the roles and capacities of each associated organization.

Contact CMS: Initiate a thorough investigation into the consumer's ABI Waiver Program service plan and to ascertain if other consumers are experiencing similar.

Ensuring the concerns detailed herein are swiftly addressed is critical to preserving safety as well as the integrity and purpose of the ABI Waiver Program.

We urge Connecticut DSS to prioritize this matter and ensure proper measures are taken to rectify the situation. Lastly, ABI Resources requests follow-up information as to how the Department of Social Services has addressed this.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros

ABI Resources

RE: Commissioner regarding Medicaid ABI Waiver 1:

Dumont, Amy E <Amy.Dumont@ct.gov>

Tue 8/29/2023 10:06 AM

To: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>; DSS, Commis <Commis.DSS@ct.gov>; ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <ABI@CTBRAININJURY.COM>

Good morning David! There has been no change in policy or program guidelines. Pursuant to section 17b-260a-11(a)(1) of the Department's ABI Waiver Operational Policy effective July 1, 2016, "[t]o the extent feasible, the individual shall lead the person-centered planning process. If the individual has a legal representative, the legal representative may participate in the planning process, making decisions for the individual, as necessary to ensure the best interests of the individual." As such, there may be, and often are, circumstances in which an individual, or an individual's representative, in consultation with the care manager, decide not to attend a particular meeting. This decision remains in the discretion of the individual and/or their representative, as part of the person-centered planning process, rather than that of any providers who may also be participating in a meeting.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Amy

Amy Dumont, LCSW
Interim Director/Program Manager
CT Department of Social Services
Community Options Unit
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford CT 06105-3725
Tel: 860 424-5173
Fax: 860 424:4963
amy.dumont@ct.gov

From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 11:58 AM

To: DSS, Commis <Commis.DSS@ct.gov>; ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <ABI@CTBRAININJURY.COM>

Cc: Dumont, Amy E <Amy.Dumont@ct.gov>

Subject: Re: Commissioner regarding Medicaid ABI Waiver 1:

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Subject: Immediate Attention Required: Clarification on Medicaid ABI Waiver 1 Meeting Protocols

Dear Commissioner [Commissioner's Last Name],

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. I am reaching out with great urgency concerning the email sent by Mr. David Medeiros on behalf of ABI Resources. Our correspondence addresses pivotal concerns regarding the Medicaid ABI Waiver 1 meeting protocols.

Given the importance and the potential ramifications of the matter at hand, we stress the importance of a swift and comprehensive response to our query. The inclusion or exclusion of consumers in their respective Medicaid ABI

Waiver meetings is not just a procedural concern but one deeply rooted in the principles of patient autonomy, informed decision-making, and effective care delivery.

Ensuring a transparent, participatory, and holistic approach in these meetings is crucial for the actualization of patient-centered care—a gold standard in healthcare provision. If indeed there has been a policy or guideline change, it becomes paramount for providers like ABI Resources, who are at the forefront of service delivery, to comprehend the underpinnings of such decisions.

It is our shared responsibility, both as a government entity and as care providers, to safeguard the welfare and rights of our consumers. The gravity of this topic necessitates a prompt elucidation so that all stakeholders can function cohesively and in the best interests of the consumers.

Understanding that the vast responsibilities of your office might have led to inadvertent delays, we kindly underscore the urgency of our request and hope for an expedited reply. Ensuring clarity and coherence in our approach will undeniably further the cause we both deeply care for—the well-being of our service recipients.

Thank you for understanding the urgency of this matter and for your timely attention.

Warm regards,

ABI Resources.

From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 7:15 PM

To: Commis DSS <commis.dss@ct.gov>; ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <ABI@CTBRAININJURY.COM>; ABI RESOURCES LLC www.CTbrainINJURY.com <AABIWR@live.com>

Subject: Commissioner regarding Medicaid ABI Waiver 1:

Commissioner
Department of Social Services
Office of the Commissioner
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

Subject: Concerns Regarding Medicaid ABI Waiver 1 Meeting Protocols

Dear Commissioner,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of ABI Resources, a dedicated provider of brain injury support services within the state of Connecticut. We have been privileged to work in collaboration with the Department of Social Services to provide essential services to many individuals under the Medicaid ABI Waiver program.

Recently, we were informed by Care Management that consumers of the Medicaid ABI Waiver 1 do not need to be present or be a part of their own Medicaid ABI Waiver meetings. This came as a surprise to us, as the active participation of consumers has always been central to ensuring their care plans reflect their specific needs, preferences, and goals.

It is our firm belief that direct involvement of consumers in these meetings is paramount. Not only does it respect their rights to be involved in decisions about their own care, but it also ensures a more tailored and effective care plan. Their firsthand input on their experiences, challenges, and aspirations is invaluable.

We kindly request clarification on this matter. If this is indeed a new policy or guideline, we are keen to understand the rationale behind such a decision. We genuinely believe that an open dialogue on this topic can lead to outcomes that best serve the interests and wellbeing of those under the Medicaid ABI Waiver 1 program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We deeply value our partnership with the Department of Social Services and are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our shared consumers. I look forward to your prompt response and clarification.

Warm regards,

David Medeiros
ABI Resources

RE: Subject: Immediate Action Required: Solicitation and Protocol Violations by ABI Waiver Behaviorist Nichole Collins.

Dumont, Amy E <Amy.Dumont@ct.gov>

Fri 7/7/2023 5:00 PM

To: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>; DSS, Commis <Commis.DSS@ct.gov>

Cc: legal@ctbraininjury.com <legal@ctbraininjury.com>

David- I am acknowledging the receipt of this email. As you know, I was in attendance at the referenced team meeting. We will look into your allegations.

Thank you!!

Amy

Amy Dumont, LCSW
Interim Director/Program Manager
CT Department of Social Services
Community Options Unit
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford CT 06105-3725
Tel: 860 424-5173
Fax: 860 424:4963
amy.dumont@ct.gov

From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:04 PM

To: DSS, Commis <Commis.DSS@ct.gov>

Cc: Dumont, Amy E <Amy.Dumont@ct.gov>; legal@ctbraininjury.com

Subject: Subject: Immediate Action Required: Solicitation and Protocol Violations by ABI Waiver Behaviorist Nichole Collins.

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Subject: Immediate Action Required: Solicitation and Protocol Violations by ABI Waiver Behaviorist Nichole Collins.

To the attention of: DSS Commissioner and Amy Dumont, DSS / COU.

I trust this message finds you well.

In reference to our recent meeting, we, at ABI Resources, are writing with an escalating concern regarding a repeated breach of protocol by one of the ABI Waiver Behaviorists, Ms. Nichole Collins. Her continued actions are compromising not only the integrity of our client support system but also that of the Medicaid ABI Waiver program. Today's discovery is yet another additional request for DSS intervention.

It has been observed, reported and documented that Ms. Collins, in her role as a behaviorist, has been directing case management activities and implementing care plans without appropriate consultation or consensus, which are strictly against the established procedures of the ABI Waiver program. Her unilateral decisions and actions have violated the program's guidelines and potentially endangered consumer safety.

Additionally, her actions have involved unilaterally referring and transitioning a client to an agency of her choice, an act that unequivocally constitutes solicitation and an explicit violation of the ABI Waiver protocols. This approach not only infringes on the client's rights to explore all appropriate options but also has created unnecessary conflicts of consumer safety. Her repeated advocacy for preferred agencies, which has been shared with the conservator, is beyond the bounds of her role and is, quite frankly, unacceptable.

In line with the regulations specified by Sec. 17b-260a-17, we are formally requesting that the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Chief Operating Unit (COU) urgently investigate this matter. It is clearly articulated in this section that providers must adhere strictly to the stipulated guidelines, with failure to do so leading to potential repercussions, including the termination of the provider's service contract, removal from the Provider Directory, or disqualification as a provider.

Our primary concern is to ensure the safety, well-being, and best interests of our clients. In pursuit of this, we hereby request the removal of Ms. Nichole Collins from the Waiver program based on the grievances described above and in compliance with Sec. 17b-260a-17.

We trust in your commitment to uphold the integrity of the DSS ABI Waiver program, ensuring its operations remain fair, transparent, and fundamentally client-focused. Should you require any further information or documentation pertaining to this matter, we stand ready to provide the same.

We look forward to your prompt action in this regard.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros



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Re: Inquiry Regarding Client's Option to Change Agency Service or Care Management Provider. MFP, ABI and PCA Waivers.

ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Wed 3/22/2023 5:00 PM

To:erin.kane@ctcommunitycare.org <erin.kane@ctcommunitycare.org>

Dear Erin,

I hope this email finds you well. As a provider of quality care for the brain-injured population, ABI Resources is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of person-centered care and upholding client rights. In the pursuit of this commitment, we sent the email below with a detailed inquiry regarding the process for clients who wish to change their agency service provider or care management provider. Unfortunately, we have not yet received a response from you and are now increasingly concerned about the implications.

Given the importance of this issue and its potential impact on the community we serve, we would like to express our concern about the lack of acknowledgment and answers to our questions. We understand that everyone has a busy schedule, however, we believe that addressing these concerns is crucial for ensuring that our clients receive the best possible care and have their rights respected.

To recap, our previous email contained a series of questions aimed at understanding the process involved in changing an agency service provider or care management provider, as well as how the principles of person-centered care and client rights apply in such situations. We kindly request your assistance in providing us with information on the following topics:

The process for clients who wish to change agency service providers, care managers, or care management agency providers.

The required documentation and steps for clients to successfully submit and process their requests.

The procedures for handling cases in which clients are uncomfortable making these requests directly to their current providers.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of addressing these concerns for the well-being of our clients and the community we serve. We understand that collaboration and open communication are essential for providing quality care, and we hope that you share our commitment to these principles.

We must reiterate the importance of addressing these concerns for the well-being of our clients, our staff, and our business. We kindly request your prompt attention to this matter.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We look forward to resolving this issue together, ensuring the best possible care for our clients and a strong, collaborative relationship between our organizations.

We eagerly await your response.

Warm regards,

David Medeiros



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From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 7:30 AM

To: erin.kane@ctcommunitycare.org <erin.kane@ctcommunitycare.org>

Subject: Inquiry Regarding Client's Option to Change Agency Service or Care Management Provider. MFP, ABI and PCA Waivers.

Hello Erin,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. As a provider of quality care for the brain-injured population, ABI Resources is deeply committed to upholding the highest standards of person-centered care and client rights. In line with this commitment, we are writing to inquire about the process involved in the event a client wishes to change an agency service provider or care management provider.

We understand that clients may sometimes feel uncomfortable with their current care manager or agency service provider, or may wish to have a different care management agency provider for any reason. We would like to know if clients have the option to request and receive a different agency service provider, care manager, or care management agency provider. If so, we would like to understand the process and how the rules of person-centered care and client rights are applied in such situations.

Furthermore, we would like to understand how this request is officially implemented.

- a. If a client wishes to document their request, what specific form or documentation must a client complete?
- b. What steps must they take to ensure that their request is successfully processed?
- c. Does the client sign an official request to change agency service providers, a care manager, or care management agency?
- d. Is this signed document provided to the current provider?
- e. Where can clients locate these documents?
- f. Is this document provided to the client by care management? and how does care management provide request forms such as these?
- g. What periods for notices are implemented?
- h. In the event that a client is uncomfortable with making this request directly to their care manager, agency service provider, or care management provider, how may the client do so?

As a valued partner in providing quality care to the brain-injured population, we understand that some clients may request the option to change care managers, agency service providers, or care management providers. It is essential for ABI Resources to better understand this process to ensure that our clients receive the best possible person-centered care and rights of the person served. We appreciate any information you can provide us on this matter to help us better serve our mutual clients.

Thank you again for your time and consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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RE: Urgent: Investigation Request Regarding Ethical Concerns with Connecticut Community Care's Practices

DSS, Commis <Commis.DSS@ct.gov>

Wed 9/13/2023 9:57 AM

To: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Please resend unencrypted.

Thank you,

Debby

Deborah Alexson

Deborah.Alexson@ct.gov

DSS

55 Farmington Ave.

Hartford, CT 06105

860-424-5044 Direct

www.ct.gov/dss

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From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 6:54 AM

To: DSS, Commis <Commis.DSS@ct.gov>; Dumont, Amy E <Amy.Dumont@ct.gov>

Subject: Re: Urgent: Investigation Request Regarding Ethical Concerns with Connecticut Community Care's Practices

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Microsoft Corporation, One Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052

RE: Verification Request | Fw: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

DSS, FOIA <FOIA.DSS@ct.gov>

Mon 3/20/2023 3:56 PM

To: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Good Afternoon,

Your request for information has been received.

The Department will respond in accordance with the requirements of the CT FOIA.

If there are any costs associated with complying with your request, an estimate will be provided to you before the records are compiled and provided to you.

Thank you.

FOIA Officer
Department of Social Services
55 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 7:12 AM

To: Cavallaro, Jennifer <Jennifer.Cavallaro@ct.gov>; Chase, Paul <Paul.Chase@ct.gov>; Slitt, Michael <Michael.Slitt@ct.gov>; DSS, FOIA <FOIA.DSS@ct.gov>; Dumont, Amy E <Amy.Dumont@ct.gov>; Orejuela, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Orejuela@ct.gov>

Cc: ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <abi@ctbraininjury.com>

Subject: Re: Verification Request | Fw: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear COU/CT DSS Recipients,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to inquire about a discrepancy in the correspondence I have been receiving from the COU/CT DSS.

On 3/10/2023, I received an email from ACR containing certain information that is crucial for ABI Resources to provide effective services to our clients and ensure the community has complete access to our services. However, I have not been receiving any correspondence from the COU/CT DSS regarding this matter. This has raised concerns about the accuracy and reliability of the information provided.

In light of this, I would like to kindly request your assistance in verifying the accuracy of the information provided by ACR in the email below:

[Again, Included within this email thread is the ACR email in reference]

Please confirm the accuracy of this information. If you find any inaccuracies or outdated information, kindly inform us and provide the correct details.

Additionally, I would appreciate it if you could look into the issue of why I have not been receiving correspondence from the COU/CT DSS on this subject, and advise on any necessary steps to rectify the situation.

Your assistance in ensuring that our organization has access to accurate and up-to-date information is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if there are any further steps we need to take in order to obtain this verification.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 8:47 AM

To: Jennifer.cavallaro@ct.gov <Jennifer.Cavallaro@ct.gov>; Paul <paul.chase@ct.gov>; Slitt, Michael <Michael.Slitt@ct.gov>; foia.dss@ct.gov <FOIA.DSS@ct.gov>; Amy Dumont <amy.dumont@ct.gov>; elizabeth orejuela <Elizabeth.Orejuela@ct.gov>

Cc: ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <abi@ctbraininjury.com>

Subject: Fw: Verification Request | Fw: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

Hello COU / CT DSS,

I am reaching out on behalf of ABI Resources to request verification of the accuracy of the information provided by ACR within this email below.

As you know, it is crucial that our organization has access to accurate and up-to-date information in order to effectively provide services to our clients as well as ensure the community has complete access to our services. Therefore, we would like to request that DSS verify the accuracy of the following information provided by ACR below:

We kindly request that you confirm the accuracy of this information as soon as possible. If any of the information is found to be inaccurate or out of date, would you please let us know and provide us with the correct information?

We greatly appreciate your help in ensuring that our organization has access to accurate information. Please let us know if there are any additional steps we need to take in order to obtain this verification.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:49 AM

To: Amy Dumont <amy.dumont@ct.gov>

Cc: ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <abi@ctbraininjury.com>

Subject: Verification Request | Fw: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

Hello Amy,

I am reaching out on behalf of ABI Resources to request verification of the accuracy of the information provided by ACR.

As you know, it is crucial that our organization has access to accurate and up-to-date information in order to effectively provide services to our clients as well as ensure the community has complete access to our services. Therefore, we would like to request that DSS verify the accuracy of the following information provided by ACR below:

We kindly request that you confirm the accuracy of this information as soon as possible. If any of the information is found to be inaccurate or out of date, would you please let us know and provide us with the correct information?

We greatly appreciate your help in ensuring that our organization has access to accurate information. Please let us know if there are any additional steps we need to take in order to obtain this verification.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing back from you soon.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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From: Marihonor Flagg <mflagg@alliedgroup.org>

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:25 AM

To: ABI RESOURCES L.L.C. 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Cc: Valerie Giannelli <vgiannelli@alliedgroup.org>; Nicole Simmons <nsimmons@alliedgroup.org>

Subject: FW: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

Greetings – the answers are in red. Also, the acr@alliedgroup.org is for general document submission only. You do not need to CC that email address on correspondences.

Marihonor Flagg

Outreach & Training Coordinator

Allied Community Resources

Fax: (860) 627-0230

From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2023 6:59 AM

To: Marihonor Flagg <mflagg@alliedgroup.org>; ACR@alliedgroup.org

Cc: ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <abi@ctbraininjury.com>

Subject: Re: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

Thank you Marihonor,

I hope this email finds you well. I am reaching out to inquire about the ACR Provider List and our listing on it. I noticed that several agencies are listed 3 to 4 times with the same information, and I was wondering if ABI Resources may do the same? Would ACR please list ABI Resources on the ACR Provider List in the same manner as other agencies listed 3 to 4 times with the same information? **The directory is produced by program. ABI Resources participates in the ABI Program and appears on that directory only.**

What is the process for being listed at the top of the ACR Provider List and how may ABI Resources ensure that we are consistently listed at the top of the list? **The directory is sorted by alphabetical order.**

As a reputable agency, we would like to ensure that our services are easily accessible to those seeking care, and being listed at the top of the provider list would help us achieve this goal. Therefore, I would appreciate any information you can provide on how this process works and what we can do to be listed at the top consistently. **The directory is sorted by alphabetical order**

Additionally, the ACR PIU document provided does not show areas and locations, which raises the concern that ABI Resources may not be listed for all areas. Therefore, I would like to ensure that we are listed for all areas to better serve our clients. **ABI Resources is listed for statewide services as indicated on the directory page I sent you on Friday.**

Furthermore, the ACR PIU document provided does not show service types, including PCA services. As ABI Resources offers a wide range of services, I would like to ensure that we are listed for all services, including PCA services, to make it easier for our clients to find us and access the care they need. **We have you in our system for the ABI Program only. If you wish to add the PCA Program, please send in current copies of your insurance certificates (liability, WC, theft) and your DCP. We will process your request and send you the letter you will need to enroll for PCA Waiver billing.**

Lastly, we would like to inquire about the accessibility of the ACR Provider List to the public and what steps consumers need to take to access the list? **Per DSS directive, the directory is not for public view. It is for program participants/ reps and DSS care managers**

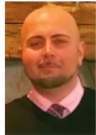
As a provider of services, we would like to ensure that our clients and potential clients can easily access the list to find the services they need. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could provide information on the accessibility of the list and any steps that consumers need to take to access it. **It is not for public view**

Would it be possible for you to provide us with the link to the public ACR Provider List, so we may share it with our clients and make it easier for them to access? **There is no link to the Provider Directory that Allied produces and maintains**

Please let me know if there are any steps we need to take to update our listing or if you require any additional information from us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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From: Marihonor Flagg <mflagg@alliedgroup.org>

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 2:59 PM

To: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Cc: ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <abi@ctbraininjury.com>

Subject: RE: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries unsecure

Hi David – attached please find the directory listing for your agency. I have attached an Update form to make any changes in the contact information if need be.

Thank you.

Marihonor Flagg

Outreach & Training Coordinator

Allied Community Resources

Fax: (860) 627-0230

From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 2:33 PM
To: ACR@alliedgroup.org; Marihonor Flagg <mflagg@alliedgroup.org>
Cc: ABI Resources HIPAA Secure Correspondence www.CTBRAININJURY.com <abi@ctbraininjury.com>
Subject: Request for Documentation to Update and Confirm Information on Provider Registries

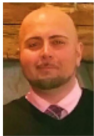
Hello Allied Community Resources,

I am writing on behalf of ABI Resources to request an update and confirmation of our information on your provider registries. We value our partnership with your organization and want to ensure that our information is accurate and up-to-date.

Could you kindly provide us with the documentation necessary to update and confirm our information on your provider registries? We are committed to providing quality services to our clients and believe that accurate information is essential to maintaining our reputation and credibility as a provider.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We appreciate your efforts to help us maintain the highest standards of professionalism and quality in our services.

All the best,
David Medeiros



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Re: Subject: Request for Attention to Unacknowledged Inquiries and Concerns Related to Medicaid Waivers.

ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Mon 3/27/2023 1:58 PM

To: Erin Kane <Erin.Kane@ctcommunitycare.org>

Cc: Julia Evans Starr <julia.evans.starr@ctcommunitycare.org>

Dear Erin,

It is important for me to apologize and ask for your forgiveness, I am sorry. I would like to express my gratitude for your previous response on March 13th. Your assistance and guidance have been valuable to me, and I truly appreciate your willingness to help.

As a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) survivor of 45 years and a recent stroke survivor, I sometimes have a hard time reading between the lines, making assumptions, and clearly communicating requests. I understand the importance of providing the best possible care and support for our clients and staff. In order to further enhance my understanding of the CCC process, I requested more clarity on certain aspects of the program. My goal is to utilize this information to better serve the individuals under our care and to contribute effectively to the growth of our community.

I understand that you have mentioned directing further programmatic questions to the Department of Social Services. However, I was hoping you could provide some initial guidance or point me in the right direction before I approach the department. DSS has established your agency team as our first point of contact. Your insights, based on your experience and expertise, would be invaluable in helping me navigate this process more efficiently.

My aim is to gather as much knowledge as possible to ensure that our practices are aligned with the broader goals and initiatives of the greatest good. As we both share a deep commitment to supporting TBI survivors, I believe that working together and exchanging information can be a crucial factor in achieving the best outcomes for our clients and staff.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon and hope to establish a productive and collaborative relationship in our efforts to support TBI survivors. I only wish to help the greatest good and provide real support for those in need, this is why I have asked you these questions. Would you please help me understand your team processes better?

Wishing you a great day!

David Medeiros



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From: Erin Kane <Erin.Kane@ctcommunitycare.org>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 10:44 AM
To: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>
Cc: Julia Evans Starr <Julia.Evans.Starr@ctcommunitycare.org>
Subject: FW: Subject: Request for Attention to Unacknowledged Inquiries and Concerns Related to Medicaid Waivers.

Hi David,

The below was brought to my attention by Julia Evans Starr. I responded to your initial inquiry on March 13th and felt I was forthcoming in my response. As I mentioned then, additional programmatic questions should be directed to the Department of Social Services. The nature of these questions are much more global than CCC internal practices/processes.

Have a nice day,
Erin

Erin Kane
Head of Quality and Performance Improvement
43 Enterprise Dr, Bristol, CT 06010-7472
860-314-2227

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From: ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 9:45 AM
To: Julia Evans Starr <Julia.Evans.Starr@ctcommunitycare.org>
Subject: Subject: Request for Attention to Unacknowledged Inquiries and Concerns Related to Medicaid Waivers.
Importance: High

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Subject: Request for Attention to Unacknowledged Inquiries and Concerns Related to Medicaid Waivers

Dear
Julia Evans Starr, President,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express our concern regarding a series of unanswered inquiries and concerns that we at ABI Resources have raised with Connecticut Community Care pertaining to Medicaid federally funded waivers. As we both strive to serve the same community, it is vital that our questions be addressed promptly to ensure the best possible support for the individuals who rely on our services.

Below is a list of unacknowledged email inquiries sent to Connecticut Community Care, Head of Quality and Performance Improvement detailing inquiries and concerns which have yet to receive a response:

Subject: Comprehensive Inquiry: Referral Process, Provider List, and Care Manager's Role.

a. Sent: Fri 3/17/2023 5:43 AM

b. Sent: Wed 3/22/2023 5:01 PM

Subject: Inquiry Regarding Client's Option to Change Agency Service or Care Management Provider. MFP, ABI and PCA Waivers.

a. Sent: Fri 3/17/ 2023 7:30 AM

b. Sent: Wed 3/22/2023 5:00 PM

Subject: Care Management Referral Process Inquiry for MFP Program and Waivers.

a. Sent: Sat 3/11/2023 7:17 AM

Subject: To the attention of David Medeiros CBIS.

a. Sent: Wed 3/22/2023 5:02 PM

b. Pertaining to the received communication from
Thu 9/1/2022 12:16 PM

We kindly request that these concerns be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors at the earliest opportunity, as they directly affect our mutual mission to serve the community. We believe that addressing these questions and concerns will not only strengthen our collaboration but also ensure that the individuals we serve receive the highest quality of care and support.

The lack of response to our inquiries is causing growing concerns for numerous reasons, particularly in relation to the well-being of Medicaid consumers and providers. This situation not only impairs our capacity to offer optimal care to our clients, but it also casts doubt on the effectiveness of communication and collaboration between our organizations, as well as the ability of care managers to effectively provide for the Medicaid waiver brain injured population while ensuring the rights of the person served are adhered to. It is vital to address these concerns swiftly to preserve trust and nurture a positive working relationship moving forward. At ABI Resources, we are committed to partnering with your organization to develop practical solutions to the challenges faced by Medicaid consumers. By working together, we can make a meaningful difference and enhance the quality of care provided to these individuals, ultimately improving their well-being and overall experience.

Please provide a timeline for when we can expect a response to the aforementioned inquiries. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a productive dialogue.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros



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Request for Investigation: ABI Waiver Program Consumer Employment Concerns at Supported Living Group (SLG)

ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Wed 9/20/2023 7:59 AM

To: Commis DSS <commis.dss@ct.gov>; Amy Dumont <amy.dumont@ct.gov>

To: The United States Department of Labor (DOL), Connecticut Department of Labor, and Connecticut Department of Social Services.

Subject: Request for Investigation: Employment Concerns at Supported Living Group (SLG)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The information presented in this letter is based on joint communications and inputs received both from the said consumer and their conservator. It is intended to ensure that relevant authorities are made aware of potential concerns for their due consideration and investigation. Neither David Medeiros, ABI Resources, nor any affiliated entities or individuals claim full accuracy of the details however believe that they warrant the attention of the mentioned authorities. The representation of facts is made in good faith, and it is hoped that any action taken in response is with the objective of ensuring fair and just employment practices for all individuals involved.

I am writing to formally express concerns and request an investigation into the employment practices at the Supported Living Group (SLG) located in the Executive Office of Bethany, 23 Amity Rd, Bethany, CT 06524. The details provided below pertain to a brain-injured adult man from Madison, CT who may appear to be both a consumer and employee of SLG's Medicaid federally funded ABI Waiver day program.

Employment Details:

Wage and Hour Standards: The consumer works approximately 21 hours a week but may appear to be compensated at a rate of just \$10 a day. This does not meet the federal minimum wage standards. The format of this payment (cash or check) may appear to be unclear, which can raise concerns about wage documentation and tax implications.

Workplace Safety and Health: The consumer's duties involve several physically demanding tasks. The consumer aids with PCA services, which include assisting other consumers to the restroom, setting up commodes, and transferring them to and from these commodes. The consumer also aids attendees prone to falling and even assists in lifting these individuals from the floor. Given his own health challenges due to a spinal cord injury, these tasks pose significant risks. The consumer may appear to be advised against heavy lifting and has balance and impulsivity issues, which compound the health and safety risks. It's imperative to assess if this environment may appear to be compliant with Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) regulations.

Employment and Training: The consumer was handed supervisory duties with minimal instructions, potentially jeopardizing the welfare of both himself and those the consumer oversees.

Workplace Discrimination: The potential exploitation due to his disability, given the disparity between his responsibilities and his compensation, may appear to be concerning.

Employee Benefits Security: The ambiguity about his employment status raises questions on whether the consumer receives any employee benefits.

Unemployment Insurance and Workers' Compensation: With unclear employment details and payment methods, there's uncertainty about his coverage under unemployment insurance or workers' compensation in case of a workplace incident.

Motivation and Future Prospects:

The consumer's commitment to his role, despite the challenges, seems largely influenced by the \$10 daily pay and the potential promises of full-time employment after a year with SLG.

Communication and Conflict of Interest:

It seems there may have been some level of coercion or undue influence in the consumer's appointment to this role.

A significant conflict of interest exists, as the consumer's ABI Waiver cognitive behaviorist provider may appear to be also an SLG employee, which can hinder transparent communication about workplace grievances or concerns.

Attendees' Profile:

The attendees, supervised by the consumer, are brain injury survivors with behavioral challenges, making the consumer's responsibilities even more demanding given his own health issues.

Conclusion:

The concerns outlined underscore potential breaches in labor standards and regulations for Connecticut's Medicaid ABI Waiver day programs. The potential exploitation, safety hazards, and conflicts of interest necessitate a comprehensive investigation into SLG's employment practices to ensure the rights and welfare of all its workers, including this specific consumer, are upheld.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros

ABI Resources
860 942-0365
AabiWR@live.com

Re: To the attention of David Medeiros CBIS

ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <AABIWR@LIVE.COM>

Wed 3/22/2023 5:02 PM

To: Erin Kane <Erin.Kane@ctcommunitycare.org>

Dear Erin,

I am writing to you on behalf of ABI Resources to formally inquire about the status of our previous correspondence concerning your Care Manager, Doreen Andrews. As a reputable provider of services to individuals receiving Medicaid waiver program services, we are deeply committed to ensuring that the care and treatment provided to our clients and care teams are of the highest standard.

Regrettably, we have yet to receive any follow-up regarding the information we requested in August of 2022, which has given rise to growing concerns on our part regarding the lack of communication and progress on this matter. We are gravely concerned that the lack of resolution to this matter may have a detrimental impact on the community of individuals we mutually serve. As such, we deem it necessary that this matter receives your urgent attention.

The handling of this challenge has resulted in significant expenses and financial challenges for ABI Resources. Therefore, we are requesting an immediate update on the status of our inquiry and investigation into this matter. Additionally, we would appreciate clarification as to why we have not received a follow-up regarding our initial inquiry.

Please be advised that we take matters such as these very seriously, and we expect a prompt response to these concerns. ABI Resources is committed to establishing a positive and professional relationship with your organization, and we strongly believe that clear communication is vital to resolving challenges like these.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

David Medeiros



A.B.I. RESOURCES

[WEBSITE](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [BLOG](#) | [YOUTUBE](#)

Main Office: 1-860-942-0365 | Ledyard Fax: 1-860-464-4960 | Windham Fax: 1-860-465-9591

An amazing opportunity to be a part of something much greater than ourselves, supporting people become the best version of themselves.

ABI Resources Connecticut home-based supported living and community care services for the MFP, ABI and PCA Waivers.

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From: Erin Kane <Erin.Kane@ctcommunitycare.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 12:15 PM
To: aabiwr@live.com <aabiwr@live.com>
Subject: To the attention of David Medeiros CBIS

Hello:

Please see attached in reference to the formal inquiry/request for investigation letter submitted to Connecticut Community Care on August 1, 2022.

Thank you & please let me know if you have any questions.

Erin
Erin Kane
Head of Quality and Performance Improvement
43 Enterprise Dr, Bristol, CT 06010-7472
860-314-2227
WWW.CTCOMMUNITYCARE.ORG
[FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK](#)



Urgent: Investigation Request Regarding Ethical Concerns with Connecticut Community Care's Practices

ABI RESOURCES 860 942-0365 <aabiwr@live.com>

Mon 9/11/2023 2:59 PM

To: Commis DSS <commis.dss@ct.gov>; Amy Dumont <amy.dumont@ct.gov>

09/11/2023

Dear DSS Commissioner and Amy Dumont, DSS COU.

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of ABI Resources to address a matter in light of the serious and pressing concerns raised by our clients regarding the practices of Connecticut Community Care (CCC) consultation services to the ABI Waiver program and potential unethical conduct. Specifically, a recurring pattern has been identified where consultation services seem to unduly direct consumers DS and AP toward the agency provider, New Day, facilitated by Ms. Luisa DiNino-Jones. Such actions compromise the core values of person-centered care services as well as efforts to jeopardize ABI Resources' services and reputation as a respected provider.

There have been instances indicating possible consumer discriminatory communications, whether over the phone or via email. This further complicates matters, hindering the ability of ABI Waiver program consumers to make informed decisions. Such conduct not only jeopardizes the integrity of ABI Resources care system but might also verge on discriminatory actions against these consumers.

Consumer DS has made numerous attempts to schedule a Team Meeting to address these concerns, yet no such meeting has been organized by care management. DS shares that care management has repeatedly dictated her choice of providers, steering and excluding the consumer from the decision-making process. Disturbingly, DS has also mentioned receiving derogatory remarks from the care manager, sharing that the consumer is insulted by continuously referencing her as grossly morbidly obese in a derogatory manner.

Consumer AP shares that the care manager often misrepresents their role, posing as the consumer's medical therapeutic provider. The consumer shares that there continue to be instances of wrongful diagnosis, with claims from the care manager of the consumer having manic episodes as well as inaccurate information being reported to the consumer's family via email. The consumer shares that this seems to be an attempt to establish some sort of historical form of legal conservatorship over AP. Consumer AP share that care management has made statements about the consumer's religious beliefs. Lastly, the consumer shares that care management inappropriately comments on the consumer's past relationships in a negative way to others.

Given the severity of these concerns, we at ABI Resources formally request that the Department of Social Services (DSS) initiate a comprehensive investigation into these allegations. It is imperative to uphold the integrity and fairness of services offered to ABI Waiver program consumers.

To address these issues and protect the interests of consumers, we suggest the following measures:

Immediate Investigation: Initiate a neutral investigation into the practices of Connecticut Community Care consultation services, with a focus on referrals to New Day through Ms. Luisa DiNino-Jones.

Immediate Investigation: Initiate a neutral investigation into the practices of Connecticut Community Care consultation services, with a focus on the number of probate conservator referrals involving Ms. Luisa DiNino-Jones.

Strengthen Oversight: Augment oversight mechanisms to ensure consultation services adhere to person-centered care principles.

Enhance Communication Transparency: Establish guidelines mandating consultation services to present transparent, unbiased information to and with consumers, guaranteeing they are included and informed with documentation for consumers to reference.

Training and Awareness: Organize regular training for consultation service providers emphasizing ethical conduct, transparency and person-centered care.

Open Reporting Channels: Develop an efficient, anonymous system for whistleblowers and other consumers to report potential wrongdoing.

Regular Audits: Implement periodic audits to assess the compliance of consultation services with DSS standards and values.

Sanctions and Penalties: Enforce stricter repercussions for services that contravene DSS standards and guidelines.

Contact CMS: Initiate a thorough investigation into the consumer's ABI Waiver Program service plan and to ascertain if other consumers are experiencing similar.

Ensuring the concerns detailed herein are swiftly addressed is critical to preserving safety as well as the integrity and purpose of the ABI Waiver Program.

We urge Connecticut DSS to prioritize this matter and ensure proper measures are taken to rectify the situation. Lastly, ABI Resources requests follow-up information as to how the Department of Social Services has addressed this.

Thank you,

David Mederios

ABI Resources



A.B.I. Resources LLC

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Gales Ferry CT, 06335

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10/31/2023

Subject: Formal Grievance Concerning Discriminatory Unfair Business Practices within the Connecticut Medicaid ABI Waiver Program

To: All pertinent departments within the state of Connecticut,

I trust this correspondence reaches you in excellent health and high spirits. My name is David Medeiros, and I am addressing you in my capacity as a concerned business owner, resident, and individual with a disability residing in the state of Connecticut. I have the honor of leading ABI Resources, a distinguished service provider within the Connecticut Medicaid Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Program.

I find myself compelled to highlight and formally complain about a series of blatant and persistent inequities pertaining to discriminatory business practices occurring under the aegis of the aforementioned program. Despite my multiple, concerted efforts to engage in constructive dialogue with the Connecticut Department of Social Services, addressing these grave concerns has been met with a disconcerting lack of engagement and rectification. This situation has had a deleterious impact not only on the operations of ABI Resources but also on the well-being and quality of service accessible to the disabled individuals we are committed to serving.

Key Concerns and Grievances:

a) **Medicaid Referrals:**

b) **Paying Consumers / Financial Incentives Inducements / Medicaid Service Agency**

a) **Medicaid Referrals:**

There is a prevailing lack of transparency and an apparent bias in the Medicaid referral processes within the ABI Waiver Program. ABI Resources, despite an unwavering commitment to excellence in service delivery, has been unfairly marginalized, resulting in an unequal and unjust distribution of referrals.

Addressing issues of transparency, bias, and unfair marginalization in Medicaid referrals, particularly within the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waiver Program, is crucial to ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services for all eligible individuals. ABI Resources and similar service providers play a vital role in supporting individuals with acquired brain injuries, and it is essential that they are treated fairly in the referral process to continue their commitment to excellence in service delivery.

Potential Steps to Address the Issue:

Increase Transparency:

Implement a transparent referral process where criteria for referrals are clearly defined and made publicly available.

Establish a monitoring system to track and publish referral data, including the number of referrals made to each service provider and the reasons for referral decisions.

Conduct an Independent Audit:

Hire an independent entity to conduct a thorough review of the Medicaid referral processes within the ABI Waiver Program to identify any biases or unfair practices.

The audit should also evaluate the performance and quality of services provided by ABI Resources and other service providers to ensure that referrals are based on merit and the ability to meet the needs of individuals with acquired brain injuries.

Implement a Fair and Equitable Referral System:

Develop a standardized and objective referral system that ensures all service providers are evaluated based on the same criteria.

Consider incorporating a randomized component to the referral process to prevent bias and ensure a fair distribution of referrals.

Engage Stakeholders:

Create a platform for open dialogue between Medicaid officials, service providers, individuals with acquired brain injuries, and their families to discuss concerns related to the referral process.

Use feedback from stakeholders to continuously improve the referral system and address any emerging issues.

Provide Training and Education:

Offer training to Medicaid officials and other stakeholders involved in the referral process to raise awareness about potential biases and the importance of a fair and equitable system.

Educate service providers about the referral process, criteria for referrals, and steps they can take if they believe they have been treated unfairly.

Establish a Complaint and Appeal Process:

Create a clear and accessible complaint and appeal process for service providers who believe they have been unfairly marginalized in the referral process.

Ensure that complaints are thoroughly investigated and that corrective action is taken when warranted.

Promote Accountability:

Hold Medicaid officials and other stakeholders accountable for ensuring a fair and transparent referral process.

Implement consequences for individuals or entities found to be engaging in biased or unfair practices.

Regularly Review and Update Policies:

Conduct regular reviews of referral policies and procedures to ensure they remain up-to-date, fair, and transparent.

Update policies as needed to address any identified issues and to adapt to changing needs and circumstances.

Addressing the issues of transparency, bias, and unfair marginalization in Medicaid referrals within the ABI Waiver Program is essential to ensuring that all eligible individuals have equal access to high-quality services. It is imperative that service providers like ABI Resources are treated fairly and equitably in the referral process to uphold the integrity of the healthcare system and to foster trust among all stakeholders. Implementing the above steps could contribute significantly to creating a more transparent, fair, and equitable referral system, ultimately benefiting individuals with acquired brain injuries and the service providers dedicated to supporting them.

b) Paying Consumers / Financial Incentives Inducements / Medicaid Service Agency

Provider: A Medicaid service agency provider is offering financial incentives to consumers, leading to an imbalance in the competitive landscape. This kind of practice can indeed raise serious ethical, legal, and fairness concerns.

Ethical Concerns:

Conflicts of Interest: Financial incentives could create a conflict of interest, where the provider's financial gain takes precedence over the best interests of the consumer.

Bias and Unfairness: It could lead to bias in referrals, favoring certain providers over others irrespective of the quality of services they offer.

Erosion of Trust: Such practices can erode trust in the Medicaid system and healthcare providers, as consumers may question the motives behind the services they are being referred to.

Legal Concerns:

Violation of Anti-Kickback Statutes: Providing inducements to influence the referral of services covered by Medicaid can violate anti-kickback statutes, potentially leading to legal actions and penalties.

False Claims Act Violations: If such inducements lead to fraudulent billing or claims, it could result in violations of the False Claims Act.

Non-Compliance with Medicaid Regulations: Medicaid has strict guidelines and regulations to ensure fairness and prevent fraud, and engaging in such practices can result in non-compliance and potential debarment from the program.

Lack of Responsiveness to Complaints and Reports: Our persistent complaints and reports, meticulously documenting these issues, have been met with apathy. There is an alarming deficit in the investigation, redressal, and accountability mechanisms within the system.

Adverse Impacts on ABI Resources:

Financial Duress: The discriminatory practices and referral shortages have placed ABI Resources under significant financial duress, compromising our ability to maintain operational viability and deliver superior services to our clients.

Reputational Harm: The state's nonintervention and perceived partiality have led to an erosion of our reputation. This has resulted in ABI Resources being unjustly perceived as a less favorable service provider, regardless of our commitment to quality and excellence.

Demoralization of Workforce: The protracted nature of these issues has led to a pervasive sense of demoralization among our staff and stakeholders, adversely impacting the morale and efficacy of our organizational operations.

Addressing the Issue:

Regulatory Oversight: There should be strict oversight and monitoring by regulatory bodies to ensure that all Medicaid service agency providers are complying with laws and regulations.

Transparency: Increasing transparency in the referral process can help in ensuring that referrals are made based on the quality of services rather than financial incentives.

Whistleblower Protections: Encouraging whistleblowing and providing protections for whistleblowers can help in uncovering and addressing such unethical practices.

Penalties and Sanctions: Implementing strict penalties and sanctions for those found guilty of engaging in such practices can act as a deterrent.

Public Awareness: Educating consumers about the potential for such conflicts of interest and providing them with information on how to report suspicious activities can empower them to make informed decisions.

Addressing this issue is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the Medicaid program, ensuring that consumers receive the best possible care, and fostering a competitive and fair marketplace for healthcare services.

Call to Action:

I earnestly seek your prompt intervention and advocacy in ensuring this grievance is communicated to all pertinent departments within the state of Connecticut tasked with addressing such critical matters. The departments that ought to be immediately apprised of this situation include, but are not limited to:

Connecticut Department of Social Services

Connecticut Attorney General's Office

Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

Connecticut Office of the Healthcare Advocate

Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

I have proactively initiated complaints and have directly engaged with the Connecticut Department of Social Services. Rest assured, all communications have been meticulously documented, encompassing dates, times, and the identities of the individuals engaged in these discussions.

I place my trust in your unwavering commitment to justice and fairness, confident that you will accord this matter the urgency and gravitas it demands, ensuring a

comprehensive investigation and the implementation of corrective measures. The equitable treatment of all service providers operating under the Connecticut Medicaid ABI Waiver Program is of utmost importance, and I am optimistic that your intervention will usher in a just resolution.

I am grateful for your time and thoughtful consideration of this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

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Best regards,

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10/31/2023

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