

Adams-Moore, Denise

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14-540

#406

From: lydiaowl@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 1:09 PM
To: PW, ODPCComment
Subject: Fee Schedule Rates

September 18, 2017

Ms. Julie Mochon
Human Service Program Specialist Supervisor
Office of Development Programs
Department of Human Services
Room 502, Health & Welfare Building
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RECEIVED
HRRG
2017 SEP 20 P 1:35

Re: Comments on Advance Notice of Final Rulemaking – Fee Schedule Rates

Dear Ms. Mochon:

I am writing to you out of concern for the rules that govern how services in Pennsylvania are paid. I am concerned about the continued quality and security of the services that my family member receives in Philadelphia. It is known that the cost of living and doing business is higher in Philadelphia than in the rest of the state. We have a higher wage tax, higher minimum wage, and definitely higher insurance costs.

I understand that services in Philadelphia will now be paid the same rate as those in the rest of the state. I also understand those rates will be frozen for at least 3-years at a time.

The staff who work with my daughter already do not make enough of a salary to make ends meet. I am very concerned that without a deserved and needed pay increase this year and every year, staff will look elsewhere for a good job. My adult child needs security and does not do well with constant changes. This is a section from the monthly newsletter where my daughter attends.

August 2017

Page 3 ANNIVERSARIES!

We extend our best wishes to each of you on your anniversary of service. We have enjoyed your dedication and enthusiasm.

COLETTE 30 yrs.

MAUREEN 3 yrs.

NATASHA 17 yrs.

RICKY 32 yrs.

MICHELLE 4 yrs.

Since I have not gotten their permission to include this information I am not including full names. Ricky and Natasha have worked with my daughter over the years and her current Individual Support Person who takes care of all her feeding, toileting and program needs then goes home to her family which includes a child with Autism. I trust these people to care for my daughter because they not only do their job; they treat my daughter like an extension of their family. You can see by the length of time they have they have been with this agency that they are doing something that is important to them. These jobs are not easy, they require a lot of physicality, endurance and emotional stability. They do their jobs with grace and love.

I request that the state reconsider its decision and pays for services based on the costs of the city or area they are in. I also request that these payments be increased every year so that staff are able to receive a pay increase.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lydia Eleanor Berger