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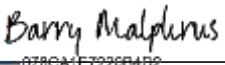
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The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) exists to coordinate person-centered services and programs for persons with an intellectual disability and related disabilities, autism, head injuries and spinal cord injuries so that each person supported may reach his/her full potential. DDSN will, accordingly:

1. Support a statewide network of disabilities and special needs boards, Regional Centers and qualified private providers to, as possible:
 - a. Offer choice of provider to those supported;
 - b. Provide services as needed, as near as possible to the person's home, in family-like settings;
 - c. Achieve respect for and community integration of those supported.
2. Assist local service providers with quality management, licensure, technical assistance and training to achieve compliance with all department policies, directives and regulations, and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

3. Assess eligibility according to S.C. Code Ann. § 44-20-390 (2018) and applied in an individual service plan to develop each person's full potential in the least restrictive environment for those who meet residency requirements.
4. The Commission expects DDSN, as the Regulatory agency, to utilize all available federal and state funds, and encourages local leaders to develop additional sources of supplementary support recognizing that:
 - a. Resources may not be adequate for all needs and that funding priority must be based on severity of need and vulnerability;
 - b. Funding is a resource to individuals to meet identified needs;
 - c. Funding accountability will be maintained and enforced.
5. Support prevention research and public education to reduce the incidence and severity of all disabilities addressed by DDSN.
6. Insure that all activities meet or exceed the quality of services and satisfaction achieved by comparable departments in other states.
7. No Commission Policy, Department Directive, Procedure or Regulation shall be interpreted to limit Commission members' rights as citizens or limit in any way their authority given by the governor or this Commission.

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7/29/2020
Barry D. Malphrus
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7/22/2020
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