

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2009 6:43 AM

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'megan.castle@state.co.us'; 'craig.bannister@state.co.us'

Subject: Slashing funds for developmentally disabled

To All Concerned:

Friends of mine in the Denver area have a deaf/blind son, Sean Wenlock who is 29 years old and has been receiving services from Denver Options for years with the same caregiver.

[\(http://theseanproject.blogspot.com/\)](http://theseanproject.blogspot.com/)

This care is now threatened by funding cuts imposed by the State of CO under Gov. Ritter, as shown in my friend's Facebook comment:

"Today we found out, finally, that the funds for Sean are being slashed on JULY FIRST. As Mick said, no appeal no nothing. Sean's funds will be LESS THAN HALF of what they have been for years. It means Sean will not have anywhere near the "community interaction" that he has become accustomed to..."

This will cause catastrophic interruption to this young man's life, and to all those who receive care and services from Denver Options under direction from the Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD). **Sean cannot speak for himself!** He cannot even be made to understand what is happening . . . only that his life is about to drastically change for the worse. So his parents and friends are making the appeal on his behalf.

Please do look at the blog linked above to understand the incredible impact changes in the in funding and requirements will have on him, et al. I see there are major cuts for the Humane Society and the outpouring of outrage for that on behalf of animals (understandable, being a shelter pet owner myself), but we're talking about HUMAN beings who will be severely adversely affected, possibly irrevocably. Progress of many years is about to be obliterated.

Many of us feel this is an outrage and that surely there are many other areas to cut spending than funds for the most vulnerable recipients. Isn't Sean and others like him the REASON for this division's existence?

I appeal to your sense of Humanity and urge you to look into this matter and reconsider, reprioritize and take steps to rectify this situation by ensuring cuts to the most vulnerable and in-need participants are not adversely affected. If there are others who should hear our appeals on this situation, please also advise who we may contact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Holly L. Carlson, R.N.
Tucson, AZ