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REHABILITATION SERVICE OF NORTH CENTRAL OHIO, INC.

270 Sterkel Boulevard • Mansfield, Ohio 44907
419/756-1133 (Voice/TTY) • Fax: 419/756-6544

September 10, 2008

Ms. Renee Jenkins
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215

Dear Ms. Jenkins

I am writing concerning the Embarq Lifeline Services which several of the clients at The Rehab Center take advantage. The Rehab Center provides services to individuals with disabilities in the areas of vocational, medical, behavioral health and addiction services. We are also one of the 10 Community Centers for the Deaf (CCD) in the state of Ohio.

More than 85% of our clients are below 200% of the poverty level and are in need of financial assistance for their day to day survival.

The Embarq Lifeline Service is a "god-send" for many of our clients. Many of these clients would also benefit greatly by having access to the vertical services that Embarq is willing to make available to them. While these services may have been the fancy extras when the program was established, today with the changes in the telecommunications market, many of these vertical services are common services that enhance the clients' ability to improve their lifestyle as they fight to function in spite of their disability.

On an average, the individual who is deaf reads at a fifth grade level. If these clients are asked to complete additional paperwork or make an extra trip to the doctor's office to certify that medically they need the particular vertical service, they will probably do without. Many of our other clients are in the same situation when it comes to their ability to deal with paperwork and filling out special requests for services they need.

I am requesting that you look seriously at working with Embarq by allowing them to provide the vertical services to the clients that would benefit from them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

James H. Schaum
President/CEO

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Cc: Kathy Daniels, Embarq



A Contact Agency of the Richland County
Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services



Commission on Accreditation
of Rehabilitation Facilities

