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June 8, 2018

Dear Families and Advocates,

As you may know, the special legislative session ended with no new revenue to fund the state's budget. The governor will soon call another special session to address this revenue shortfall. Now, more than ever, we need everyone to contact their representatives, meet them face to face, and deliver the following message:

- Providers of Developmental Disability services (such as Magnolia) serve over 1/2 of all the people in Louisiana with a developmental disability.
- 80% of these providers are operating in the RED, some for several years.
- It is only a matter of time before these providers will go out of business.
 - Why is this happening?
 - Reimbursement rates for all services have been cut several times since 2008.
 - None of these rates were ever restored.
 - Cost of running business has increased since 2008 (wages, benefits, utilities, insurance, etc).
 - The Department of Health and the Federal government have added mandates to our services models, but have not provided the funding to implement them.
- We are not asking for a rate increase – we are asking that our rates be restored to what they were in 2008 (before the cuts).

You may also wish to share what it would mean to our family and your loved one with a disability should Magnolia go out of business.

Please contact your legislators as soon as possible. Cameron Henry is the representative in Magnolia's district. We would appreciate your contacting him as well.

Many thanks to all of you who have joined forces to save our services!

Sincerely,

Jennifer C. Hebert
Executive Director

Lawrence P. Oertling
Chairman, Board of Directors

