

From: Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>
To: Catherine McNicollCatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov
'Wolf, Anne'awolf@aging.sc.gov
Broome, Darryldbroom@aging.sc.gov
Date: 12/14/2017 8:12:53 AM
Subject: Re: Letter to Congressional Delegation RE VDHCB

Let's condense it just a little and focus on the recall of rainy day funds and the reported dissatisfaction. Please provide me that survey, and we'll go from there.

December 11, 2017

Columbia, South Carolina 29209

Re: Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program (VDHCB)

Dear :

The South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA) has attempted for nearly two months to resolve issues with Dorn VA (Dorn) following their decision to end the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program (VDHCB). Dorn has provided inconsistent information on the transition of veterans' services, and LGOA also is concerned about the proper accounting and return of program funds.

LGOA learned of Dorn VA's intent to terminate the program on October 18, 2017 via a copy of the letter sent by Dorn to the enrolled Veterans. LGOA believes that this was in violation of the Provider Agreement between Dorn VA and the LGOA that requires 45 days written notice to LGOA of the intent to cancel the agreement.

LGOA, nonetheless, attempted to work with Dorn VA to successfully transition veterans from this program to other services and particularly to ensure that veterans could utilize their Rainy Day Funds after the VA terminated the program on November 30, 2017. The commitment to make the Rainy Day Funds available was conveyed to the enrolled Veterans by Dorn in a letter dated XXX and enclosed herein.

On November 28, 2017 Catherine McNicoll, Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs for the Lieutenant Governor's Office and the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging sent a letter to the Director of Dorn VA requesting written notice of the program's termination as required by the Provider Agreement between Dorn VA and the LGOA. This letter also requested specific information concerning the transition of the Veterans enrolled in the program. Dorn VA responded on December 1, 2017, the day after the program terminated, and stated that all enrolled Veterans were transferred to alternative services that were equal to or better than the services they were receiving under the program. The response also made it clear that the enrolled Veterans would NOT be allowed to use the Rainy Day Funds.

The Santee-Lynches AAA conducted a survey of twenty nine veterans and program participants on November 29, 2017, and one question asked was "Will the new VA Transition – Home Health Program hours per week meet your needs?" All respondents answered "No". These survey findings are inconsistent with the information furnished by Dorn VA, stating that the Veterans are fully served and satisfied with this transition

(How was this information provided?). LGOA remains unclear on the disposition of the veterans' Rainy Day Funds.

Our concerns regarding the unilateral decision to discontinue VDHCBs Program remain, and they primarily are rooted in whether the care being received by the Veterans will enable them to stay in their homes and communities as that is the ultimate goal of LGOA with all of our seniors in South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Bryant
Lieutenant Governor

From: Catherine McNicoll
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 1:40 PM
To: 'Wolf, Anne'; Broome, Darryl; Danny Varat
Subject: RE: Letter to Congressional Delegation RE VDHCBs

Good Afternoon,

Ann thank you for your revisions, for the most part I think you have pushed this letter to near completion. I noticed a few typos that I believe are carry over from my draft.

Danny, could you please review and confirm the overall message and information is what you were looking for. Thank you.

Best Regards,

Catherine McNicoll

Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs

Lieutenant Governor's Office

CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov

803-734-5292 (phone)

From: Wolf, Anne [<mailto:awolf@aging.sc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 4:00 PM
To: Catherine McNicoll ; Broome, Darryl ; Danny Varat
Subject: RE: Letter to Congressional Delegation RE VDHCBs

Hi all,

I've attached my draft of the above referenced. I didn't mention the multitude of conference calls that have taken place with the Lewin Group and ACL, so if you think that's germane let me know and I can add the info.

I have one question regarding the date info was sent to Dorn, but that can be confirmed prior to final being done.

Thanks,

Anne

From: Catherine McNicoll [<mailto:CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>]
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2017 4:32 PM
To: Wolf, Anne <awolf@aging.sc.gov>; Broome, Darryl <dbroome@aging.sc.gov>; Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>
Subject: Letter to Congressional Delegation RE VDHCBs

Good Afternoon attached is a draft letter to the Congressional Delegation regarding the VDHCBs program. I believe this draft is only a starting point and needs input for all of you. I would like to ask that Darryl and Anne take the first

shots at the letter and let me know if I have missed any historical details from the last approx. two months. Once we have the background covered I will ask that we review what the overall message to the delegation is.

Currently my thought is that the message should be "This program is terminated, we did not have a voice in the process, and there are still loose ends that Dorn VA is mishandling/ not handling."

Best Regards,

Catherine McNicoll

Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs

Lieutenant Governor's Office

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803-734-5292 (phone)