

From: Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>  
To: Wingo, KarenKaren.Wingo@dss.sc.gov  
CC: Godfrey, Robrgodfrey@gov.sc.gov  
Symmes, BrianBrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov  
Date: 12/9/2015 7:53:53 PM  
Subject: Re: Draft Response to Dan Brown (Aiken Standard) re: Refugee Resettlement

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Edits below. Sorry for the response time. I was driving home.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 9, 2015, at 6:09 PM, Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov> wrote:

Below is my proposed draft response to Dan that is consistent with previous responses made to media inquiries and the backgrounder. Please let me know if you have any edits, revisions or additions. – Karen

Dan,

Thank you for contacting the Department with your inquiry regarding refugee resettlement in South Carolina. The Refugee Resettlement Program is a federal program administered by the Office of Refugee Resettlement, an Office of the Administration for Children and Families within the federal department of HHS. As this is a federal program, the administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program is completely federally funded.

Before any individual is resettled in the United States as a refugee, he or she is vetted by the federal government and only individuals approved by the federal government are admitted into the program for placement.

South Carolina has participated in the Refugee Resettlement Program since 1975. Through the Refugee Resettlement Program State Plan ('State Plan'), the Governor has designated the South Carolina Department of Social Services as the agency responsible for the administration of the Refugee Resettlement Program in South Carolina. This means the agency is responsible for X . However, the Department is not involved in the admittance or placement of refugees. Instead, the two resettlement agencies in SC, Lutheran Services and World Relief, resettle refugees in South Carolina, including specifics placements.

The Department of Social Services is aware of the Aiken County resolution and is monitoring developments at both the state and national level regarding refugee resettlement. By the terms of the State Plan, the Department will continue to provide federally funded services and/or benefits to qualifying refugees who are resettled in Aiken County or any other county in South Carolina by either of the resettlement organizations located within the state. Importantly, federal law prevents the state or county from denying placement of refugees in South Carolina, even if South Carolina did not have a State Plan.

If you have any other questions, please let me know.

All the best,  
Karen

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