

From: Catherine McNicoll <CatherineMcNicoll@scstatehouse.gov>
To: Danny VaratDannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 11/29/2017 5:24:18 PM
Subject: Update on Veterans Directed Care Program
Attachments: 2017-11-28 McNicoll LT Omura re VDHCBS.pdf
2017-11-29 Memo w-Docs to SC Div of VA - VDHCBS.pdf

Good Afternoon Danny,

Per your request I am providing an update on where we are with this program so that it can be provided to the members of the delegation that you have been communicating with.

The short version: As far as we know the program terminates tomorrow, and there are outstanding questions regarding what that means and how veterans will be transitioned.

Longer update:

Yesterday, November 28th, the SC Division of Veteran Affairs reached out to Anne Wolf (LGOA Program Manager) to meet with them and Dorn VA about the program. At that time it was arranged that Anne and myself would attend this meeting on Thursday at 11am at Dorn. We had also asked about possibly inviting Connie Munn, the Central Midlands AAA Director, and were told by the SC Division of VA the more the merrier. Additionally, yesterday I sent a letter to Director Omura (Dorn VA) requesting that they provide written notification of the program terminating and clarifications on the transition for the veterans. (See attached).

Today, November 29th, Anne and myself were uninvited from the meeting Thursday morning. During a conversation with SC Division of VA about being uninvited they requested to see some of the documents mentioned in the November 28th letter. (It is unclear why or who uninvited our office from the meeting). I drafted a short memo and sent them those documents and some other relevant documents (attached), including the initial response from Dorn VA to my letter from November 28th.

Acting Director Soots of Dorn VA indicated in his email that they would respond to my letter on December 1st. As of November 30th the program is supposedly terminated and the transition plan is unclear.

Additional information that has become clearer in the last day:

-According to one AAA director, "Unfortunately, we have nursing home eligible seniors that have become dependent on this VD-HCBS program." This has been an ongoing concern. The logical conclusion from this is, that with the lack of transition plan from Dorn VA for comparable other services for the veterans it is likely that many will have to leave their homes and go into nursing homes.

-There is a second arrangement for this program through Charleston, I am still gathering the exact details; however what we do know is that the Charleston program is substantially smaller (3 veterans). As mentioned in my letter, PPL is the fiscal intermediary for the program. We believe it is unlikely that PPL could administer the program in Charleston if Dorn terminates the program because the program in Charleston is too small to support the administrative costs without the Dorn program. This means that by Dorn terminating their program they cause the Charleston program to be terminated.

Best Regards,
Catherine McNicoll
Director of Legal & Legislative Affairs
Lieutenant Governor's Office
CatherineMcNicoll@SCStatehouse.gov
803-734-5292 (phone)

