

From: Kester, Tony
To: 'Vanessa Wideman' <vwideman@uppersavannah.com>
Date: 4/9/2013 7:35:03 AM
Subject: RE: IR&A Service

Vanessa,

Who would be funded by this request?

From: Vanessa Wideman [<mailto:vwideman@uppersavannah.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 3:46 PM
To: Kester, Tony
Cc: Patricia Hartung; Sam Leaman; Linda McAllister
Subject: RE: IR&A Service

Tony,

I & A units and unit cost ARE NOT tracked the traditional way as other services (in AIM). The only way I can even imagine tracking would be through SC ACCESS, if at all.

This funding would be for the AAA, as my staff has been responding to the increased requests for IR&A. Some inquiries result in seniors receiving typical aging services such as meals, home care, transportation, respite services, supplemental services, grandparent services, etc.; some inquiries result in my staff making referrals to other agencies for housing assistance, utility assistance, free medical clinic, Adult Protective Services, income tax assistance, social security, etc. (for both seniors and disabled individuals); and some inquiries result in staff explaining programs [such as Income Support and Material Aid, Minor Home Repair, etc., (whereby funding is already allocated)], mailing information and putting the seniors on a waiting list for services. While the outcomes may be vastly different—all of these are examples of information, referral and assistance which takes valuable staff time to provide to the clients and then enter into the OLSA database.

Hope this helps. Thanks.

Vanessa

From: Kester, Tony [<mailto:kester@aging.sc.gov>]
Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 12:08 PM
To: Vanessa Wideman
Subject: RE: IR&A Service

Vanessa,

Guilty as charged. I dropped the ball on this one. Your references will make it easier to discuss with the Lt. Governor. Thank you. How do we track units of service and unit cost for this service? Who would be funded by this if approved?

Thanks.

Tony

From: Vanessa Wideman [<mailto:vwideman@uppersavannah.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2013 2:52 PM
To: Kester, Tony
Cc: Patricia Hartung; Sam Leaman; Linda McAllister
Subject: IR&A Service

Tony,

On March 18, Linda McAllister sent Tommy Taylor a request to move \$34,000 of the allocated HCBS funding into our I&A service category. I spoke with you on March 19 about this request after the SUA/AAA Meeting in your office.

You asked me at that time “is I&A admin or a service.” I responded that I&A is a service and you went on to say that you would need to get clarification from the Lt. Governor that he interpreted IR&A as a service. You told me that you would have to get back to me on this. It has been over two weeks now and I have not had any response from you regarding this issue.

Therefore, as you discuss this with the Lt. Governor, I thought you might want to let him know that:

- Older Americans Act, Section 102, Paragraph 28 gives the definition as: “The term “information and assistance service” means a service for older individuals that - . . . “
- OAA, Section 202. FUNCTIONS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY. Paragraph (a) It shall be the duty and function of the Administration to— “. . . (21) establish information and assistance services as priority services for older individuals, ...”
- OAA, Section 315. Consumer Contributions. (a) Cost Sharing “. . . (2) EXCEPTION.—The State is not permitted to implement the cost sharing described in paragraph (1) for the following services: (A) Information and assistance, outreach, benefits counseling, or case management services.”

As you can see, throughout the OAA, information and assistance is referenced as a SERVICE. Our AAA is required to have one FT employee devoted to this service. However, all of the Upper Savannah AAA staff are trained and certified in Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS). Again, this certification and designation of our employees were encouraged and basically sanctioned by the SUA when funds were specifically designated and set aside for IR&A services.

As a fully-operational ADRC, AAA staff are all taking more calls in order to provide this service for both our aging and disabled populations. Therefore, we are requesting these funds be transferred on our NGA in order that we may use them for our Information and Assistance Service.

Please let me know as soon as possible of the State’s decision. Thanks.