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FAX

To: Governor Nikki Haley **From:** A Concerned Citizen

Fax: Fax: 803.734.5167 **Pages:** 2

Phone: **Date:** 9.15.2014

Re: COLLETON COUNTY HOMELESS SHELTER **CC:** Arlene Washington, Exec Director

☒ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

Comments:

Governor Haley this is a follow up of a phone conversation that I had with one of your staff members on last Monday, 09/12/2014, regarding the conditions of the homeless shelter in Colleton County. I understand that they are a non-profit operating on grants furnished by South Carolina and have guidelines in order to receive this funding. From all that I am being told from those who have unfortunately run on bad times and are having to stay in the shelter is very deplorable. These stories have not just started. Over the last year I have confronted the Lowcountry Community Action people as to what I've been told. There answer to one of the problems we fired that lady. That was because she was allowing a man, her boyfriend, in the facility after 9:00 pm to help himself to food in kitchen and the ladies there were very frighten. This shelter is only for women. The ladies in the past who have gone and complained to Lowcountry regarding problems, when returning to shelter are kicked out for some trumped up thing. The ones who are there are afraid to come forward.

I am listing of some of the grievances:

1. Clients are required to buy food, cleaning supplies, and pay to stay at the shelter. My question is what this grant money is being used for. How are these people going to get back on their feet this way?
2. Clients are required to get a job. Most have no transportation. There resources for looking for work are the library computers. Clients with children have to walk with them everywhere. My understanding is that there is supposed to be someone on site to aid the clients in looking for work. This is just what I was told by Lowcountry.

9.15.2014

3. If the clients with small children, that require formula, diapers and food the shelters don't have any stock of these. Again where is the grants money being used?
4. There is no transportation provided for getting clients to job interviews.
5. Clients will get chastised if they go to Lowcountry Community Action with concerns, complaints, or request for help that is not being given by the shelter.
6. From May to Mid-July there were only fans no air conditioner
7. There is no update first aid kit in the center.
8. I was told that there is supposed to be transitional funding to help person get into housing, but when asked for funding the story is oh money isn't available yet??

There are so many other things that can be found out. You just need to send someone here undercover and you will see. They shoved these people in the street early morning and don't allow them back until late evening.

WHERE IS THE MONIES BEING USED??

Governor Haley this facility needs to be investigated and the proper administration are appointed. You have visited Colleton County and as you know our community is bad need of this type of facility and help for the community to find jobs for the less fortunate. I have looked at financial on internet and have been told the amounts giving to run this facility in fact for the Lowcountry Community Action Programs. But if you don't have the proper supervision monies get used unwisely.

By the way a lady died at this shelter Saturday Night 09/06/2014. There was no one but clients there and they had a time getting help.

9.15.2014