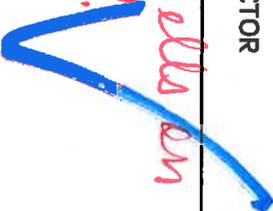


**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**

ACTION REFERRAL

TO <i>Wells</i>	DATE <i>8-21-06</i>
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DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY	ACTION REQUESTED
1. LOG NUMBER <i>000164</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature DATE DUE <i>8-28-06</i>
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR <i>NRH per Wells on 5/17/07</i> <i>See attached.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> FOIA DATE DUE _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)	APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			



South Carolina
Department of
Mental Health

2414 Bull Street/P. O. Box 485
Columbia, SC 29202
Information: (803) 898-8581

John J. Connerly, M.A.
Interim State Director of Mental Health

MISSION STATEMENT

To support the recovery of people with mental illnesses.

August 17, 2006

Robert M. Kerr, Director
Department of Health & Human Services
1801 Main Street
PO Box 8206
Columbia, SC 29202-8206

Rog- Wells
"Robby's Sign"

RECEIVED

AUG 21 7PM '06

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Kerr:

As the Director of a state agency you depend on accurate data and analysis to support your planning. And, as a member of the SC Council on Homelessness, you are well aware that planning, policy development and program evaluation targeting homelessness is more anecdotal and experiential than rooted in good local data and analysis. Efforts continue to be made to correct this.

The first statewide count of the homeless was conducted on January 27, 2005. This first attempt to collect comprehensive data on the sheltered and unsheltered homeless was unfunded, led by service providers, staffed with volunteers and supported by the University of South Carolina. The Department of Mental Health assisted in the analysis of the data. While the work was impressive—volunteers located almost 7,000 homeless people in the 24 hour period—it was also uneven. Without funding to support this ambitious project, almost a third of our counties, including some of the most impoverished, were left out. It also was very difficult to control the quality of data entry and analysis.

A second statewide count of the homeless is scheduled for January 25, 2007. Biannual counts are required by HUD for Continuum of Care homeless funding programs. Annually, our state receives almost eight million dollars for new and continuing homeless programs. Both the SC Council on Homelessness and the SC Coalition for the Homeless are already planning the January 2007 count and incorporating "lessons learned" from the first experience. This assessment will feature both a hard count and a follow up survey using industry-accepted instruments.

As a result of this count, your agency will obtain the latest data concerning the homeless in South Carolina. This will consist of numerical information, family status, a breakdown of race, gender and age as well as the person's/family's current housing situation. The information will be detailed enough to use to support consolidated plans and annual action plans required by HUD of federally funded state and local governments. The data collected will also serve as the basis for a new statewide database addressing homelessness that will provide your agency with a better understanding as to how the homeless population interacts with your programs. Consequently, better information will be consistently available for future planning and policy development. It is hoped that your agency will be a part of this ongoing effort.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION:

Allison Evans, Chair, *Hartsville*
Joan Moore, Vice Chair, *Goose Creek*

Jane B. Jones, *Easley*
Harold E. Cheatham, Ph.D., *Clemson*

Stephen A. Imbeau, M.D., *Florence*
H. Lloyd Howard, *Landon*

Robert M. Kerr

2

August 17, 2006

Some agencies, including DMH and the Office of Research and Statistics have already committed resources to this project to ensure a better result. We need your support, too. The SC Council on Homelessness is asking all of its key agency partners to support this effort in the following ways:

*** Help fund the project.** The projected budget of \$60,000 will allow us to hire a temporary, part-time coordinator to train volunteers across the state and to manage the collection and analysis of the data. Further, it will fund data entry—a critically needed improvement from the first count. DMH has committed \$10,000 to this project. We request your agency match our cash contribution to this important effort.

*** Engage your staff in supporting the count.** Especially in rural areas of the state, local staff members from many state agencies have provided the front line support to people who are homeless. For this initiative, we need these staff members to work through their local homeless coalitions to help identify and locate their clients who are homeless.

*** Use the data.** National studies demonstrate that providing crisis assistance to people who are homeless is more costly and less effective than supporting them in housing with services. Better data will help all of us improve the quality of life for men, women and children who are homeless and make better use of our state resources.

I, or my designee, will contact you to follow up and answer any questions you may have. To meet our timeframe, we will need to have financial resources committed by September 15. Thank you for your support of the Council and the work that you do to improve the lives of all citizens of our state.

Sincerely,



John J. Connerly, M.A.
Interim State Director
Interim Chair, SC Council on Homelessness

cc: Mike Chesser, ThD, President, SC Coalition for the Homeless

Attachment

List of State Agencies Receiving This Correspondence

Office of the Governor

Office of Economic Opportunity

State Housing Finance & Development Authority

Department of Health & Human Services

Department of Health & Environmental Control

Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Department of Probation, Parole & Pardon Services

SC Primary Healthcare Association

Department of Social Services

Department of Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Services

Department of Education

Department of Commerce

Department of Corrections

Employment Security Commission

Executive Correspondence Log

Fiscal Year: 2005 -

Jaye



Log Number	Correspondent	Subject	Category
1102 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? CMS-Hugh Webster	State Plan Amend SC-05-001	General Correspondences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 2 MAY 2005 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo: CC: Mills, Saxon
164 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? SC Dept Of Mental Health	Re: Homlessness	General Correspondences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 30 AUG 2006 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo: <i>5/17/07</i> <i>Mr Wells said NR N</i> <i>The Director no longer there</i>
209 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? CMS-Renard Murrey	Re:Recent Approved State Plan Amendments	General Correspondences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 7 SEP 2006 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo: CC: Bowling <i>NR N per Mr. Wells</i>
276 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? Lake City Community Hospital	Re:Disproportionate Share & Medicaid Interim	General Correspondences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 5 OCT 2006 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo: CC: Bowling, Mr. Kerr
279 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? CMS-Renard Murrey	Complete Review Of State Plan Amend 06-009	General Correspondences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 2 NOV 2006 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo: CC: Mr. Kerr, Singleton
293 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? Georgetown Healthcare & Rehab, Inc	Re: Medicaid Patient Days	General Correspondences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 13 OCT 2006 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo:
572 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Response? Lesley Michum	Re:Medicaid Not Paying For Behavioral Therapy/Autism	General Correspondences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Director Signature?	Response Data Referred To: Will Due Date: 19 MAR 2007 Logged To: Will Date Cleared:	Memo: CC: Bowling, Singleton