

From: Blickenstaff, Deb (Scott) <deb_blickenstaff@scott.senate.gov>
To: Danny Varat DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 11/27/2017 3:48:51 PM
Subject: RE: VA Issue

Danny, are you ok with me sending your email to our contact with the VA in Columbia. We had a conference call with the VA. We were told that they were in the process of calling all of the Veterans involved to discuss other potential programs. However, that being said, I can still send your email with your concerns to our contact.

From: Danny Varat [mailto:DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 3:21 PM
To: Blickenstaff, Deb (Scott)
Subject: Re: VA Issue

Deb, our concern is with the upcoming termination of the Self Directed Care program at the Dorn VA Clinic that serves the Midlands. We're putting together a letter from the LG to the delegation, but here, for now, are some of the particulars. This program is discretionary to the Dorn VA, but as we oversee the Office on Aging, we are closely involved with the program and its constituents.

- The program allows Veterans to hire someone to help them with daily activities so they can remain at home.
- It is administered through Dorn and we partner to handle administrative duties of program.
- Dorn sent letters to Veterans notifying them that program would cease the end of November. They did not notify us.
- We are receiving calls and emails from Veterans and family members saying they are cutting services and are unresponsive.
- There are some issues with program. But we should fix those issues and either reinstate program or discuss a "phase out".
- The Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA) has a MOA with the VA that requires the VA to provide written notification to the LGOA when the program is going to be terminated.
- The LGOA has MOAs with three Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) that administer the program and those also require written notification by the LGOA to the AAAs to terminate the program.
- The LGOA has insufficient/conflicting information to provide notice to the AAAs.
- Further, in a worst case scenario, if the LGOA does not provide notice the AAA and the funds are cut by the VA on November 30th, then the LGOA could be on the hook for over 30 days worth of program funding that comes directly from the Older Americans Act.

We'd appreciate any help that y'all could provide at the federal level, if nothing more, to at least delay this decision until the legalities are sorted through.

Thanks

Danny

From: Blickenstaff, Deb (Scott) <deb_blickenstaff@scott.senate.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2017 10:43 AM

To: McKeown, Joe (Scott); Danny Varat

Subject: RE: VA Issue

Mr. Varat, please do not hesitate to email me or call me directly at 864-268-0039. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Deb Blickenstaff

Constituent Services Director

Office of U.S. Senator Tim Scott

Phone: 864-268-0039

Email: deb_blickenstaff@scott.senate.gov

From: McKeown, Joe (Scott)

Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2017 5:01 PM

To: Danny Varat

Cc: Blickenstaff, Deb (Scott)

Subject: RE: VA Issue

Danny please email Deb on Monday. She is our ConstituentServices Director and copied here.

Thank you.

Joe

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>

Date: 11/22/17 2:45 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: "McKeown, Joe (Scott)" <Joe_McKeown@scott.senate.gov>

Subject: VA Issue

Joe, I'm sure that you'll be glad to stop getting emails from me, but we have a brewing issue here with the Dorn VA. Whom in your office may I talk to about this? Thanks a lot

Danny