

From: Patel, Swati <SwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov>
To: Burns, James <JamesBurns@gov.sc.gov>
Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
CC: Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Smith, Austin <AustinSmith@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 6/10/2015 10:32:14 AM
Subject: RE: Questions for Ms. Alford

I will touch base for DSS about how they will respond to the lawsuit since the P&C will likely ask Alford about it.

From: Burns, James
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Symmes, Brian; Godfrey, Rob
Cc: Adams, Chaney; Smith, Austin; Patel, Swati
Subject: RE: Questions for Ms. Alford

There is a lawsuit against DSS pending right now related to the foster care system. Swati, any thoughts?

James H. Burns
Chief of Staff
Governor Nikki Haley
Cell: 803-315-3899
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From: Symmes, Brian
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 10:24 AM
To: Godfrey, Rob
Cc: Adams, Chaney; Smith, Austin; Burns, James
Subject: RE: Questions for Ms. Alford

Nope. Just wanted to let you know that this was happening today and the info below provides some insight as to what Lauren will ask Director Alford about.

From: Godfrey, Rob
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 9:45 AM
To: Symmes, Brian
Cc: Adams, Chaney; Smith, Austin; Burns, James
Subject: Re: Questions for Ms. Alford

Is there an action item for us?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 10, 2015, at 9:25 AM, Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov> wrote:

FYI. Susan will be interviewed by the Post and Courier this afternoon on the state's foster care system.

From: Matheus, Marilyn [<mailto:Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 9:16 AM
To: Symmes, Brian
Subject: FW: Questions for Ms. Alford

Good Morning, Brian.

I wanted you to have an idea of what Lauren will be talking with Ms. Alford about this afternoon. OHAN is the Out of Home Abuse and Neglect unit.

Thanks,
Marilyn

From: Sausser, Lauren [<mailto:lsausser@postandcourier.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 8:28 AM
To: Matheus, Marilyn
Subject: RE: Questions for Ms. Alford

Thanks for passing this along.

Basically, I want to ask her about foster children who are placed in group homes in South Carolina. A lot of states have reduced their reliance on group homes for children because research shows that they do better with families. Some states have been hit with pretty large lawsuits over this issue. Meanwhile, [federal data shows](#) South Carolina puts its youngest foster children in group homes and institutions at a higher rate than any other state in the country.

So here are a few questions:

1. Does South Carolina need to transition away from this model?
2. If so, how would the state accomplish that?

I also want to talk about the OHAN unit and its responsibilities. Several advocates have told me that children in foster homes and group homes are being abused by each other and by staff members and the Department of Social Services is ill-equipped to handle these investigations.

1. Does OHAN, as some people have suggested, need to be a separate investigative unit from DSS?

Lauren

From: Matheus, Marilyn [<mailto:Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 6:18 PM
To: Sausser, Lauren
Subject: Questions for Ms. Alford

Hi Lauren,

The attached has a description of each level of care (page 95)

Do you have an idea of the type of questions you'll ask Ms. Alford tomorrow? She would like to be prepared.

Thanks!

Marilyn

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