

From: Veldran, Katherine
To: kveldran@mail.com <kveldran@mail.com>
Date: 5/1/2014 5:47:40 PM
Subject: FW: Messenger Case

From: lillian.b.koller@gmail.com [<mailto:lillian.b.koller@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2013 9:14 PM
To: Senator Katrina Shealy
Cc: Jessica Hanak-Coulter CWS Director; Veldran, Katherine
Subject: Fw: Messenger Case

Senator, please rest assured that Jessica and I will continue to closely oversee this case and keep you updated. The Judge's ruling is expected on Monday. Meanwhile, work with the family will continue this weekend. I hope you will continue to contact me with your questions and concerns about anything you wish so I may have the opportunity to see if I can help. My personal email is Lillian.B.Koller@gmail.com and my personal cell to call or text is 1-808-781-7015. Take care! Lillian
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: "Koller, Lillian" <Lillian.B.Koller@dss.sc.gov>
Date: Fri, 6 Dec 2013 19:02:00 +0000
To: lillian.b.koller@gmail.com<lillian.b.koller@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Messenger Case

From: Katrina Shealy [<mailto:KatrinaShealy@scsenate.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 9:29 PM
To: Koller, Lillian
Subject: RE: Messenger Case

Thank you for everything that your Department did today to help the Messenger family. I am certain they did all that they could to assure the safety and well being of this 5 year old little girl. This has certainly been an eye opening experience for me. Fortunately I had never had the opportunity to have to deal with these type circumstances but we are put in these situations for a reason. What I have learned in the last two days has garnered me a wealth of information that will certainly be useful to me in the future.

Regards,

Katrina Shealy
SC Senate District 23
Serving Lexington County

Senate of South Carolina
Gressette Building 502
P.O. Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202
Phone: 803-212-6108

From: Koller, Lillian [<mailto:Lillian.B.Koller@dss.sc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 11:58 AM
To: Katrina Shealy
Subject: RE: Messenger Case

Dear Senator Shealy:

I promise you I take your concerns seriously. However, with all due respect, Senator, I believe you do not have all the facts to make such harsh judgment against DSS staff in this case. I am requiring that my staff investigate and explain to me personally the circumstances of each of the allegations from your e-mail of last night and your concerns expressed in your email this morning.

My state level staff are overseeing the Messenger case. We will review what has happened already and provide additional support and guidance to the county level staff going forward.

This child's safety and well-being are paramount. We are all interested in doing what is the best interest for the child, both in the short-term and the long-term.

Lillian

From: Katrina Shealy [<mailto:KatrinaShealy@scsenate.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 11:01 AM
To: Koller, Lillian
Subject: RE: Messenger Case

My hope is that this will be resolved in the appropriate manor with a family member having custody of this child. There are laws in place addressing this and they need to be followed. The social workers on this case are not handling this case professionally and this child is being damaged every day she is away from her family.

Thanks,
Katrina

From: Koller, Lillian [<mailto:Lillian.B.Koller@dss.sc.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Katrina Shealy
Subject: RE: Messenger Case

Senator, I am so sorry that this case is causing you such anxiety. I am gathering more details for you. The hearing is at 11AM today. I'll contact you later today. Take care! Lillian
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: Katrina Shealy [<mailto:KatrinaShealy@scsenate.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2013 10:58 PM
To: Koller, Lillian
Subject: Messenger Case

Lillian,

First let me say it was a pleasure finally meeting you the other day and I look forward to working together to make South Carolina a better place for the Children of this state.

I am anticipating the outcome of the Messenger Case in the morning. I have done some additional research on this and this one just will not get out of my head. Something is just not right about this. It is my understanding that Mrs. Messenger is allowed to see her daughter 2 hours – once or twice a week and the little girl is left screaming and crying begging for her Mom or family at every meeting, grabbing and trying to hang on and that the case worker Ms. Carr is cold and rude to Mrs. Messenger, who we all know is suffering from stage 3 cancer. I also understand that Amelia who was placed in a Foster Home in another school district, rides the school bus when she was always taken to school by car and is now being called Kelly. She was placed in a family of another race and is no longer allowed to wash her hair regularly because of the culture difference and has sores in her head. I also understand there are other children in the home who do not get along well with Amelia, who already suffered from separation anxiety from her

family. What the State of South Carolina is doing to this child is abuse. There are family members who are willing and able to take care of this little girl if it is found that her immediately family is not capability, which I am seriously beginning to doubt because the credibility of the way the report was handled by Ms. Dubose.

If I did not have 3 meetings in the morning I would make the trip to Berkley myself to sit in on the hearing and if there is anyway I can find to make myself available I am going to be there. I am personally worried about the welfare of this little girl. I pray that the right outcome happens tomorrow.

Please keep me posted.

Regards,

Katrina

Katrina Shealy
SC Senate District 23
Serving Lexington County

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