

From: Matheus, Marilyn <Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov>
To: Symmes, Brian BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov
Wingo, Karen Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov
Davis, Taron Taron.Davis@dss.sc.gov
CC: Pisarik, Holly HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov
Date: 3/15/2016 1:25:48 PM
Subject: RE: Media Request FW: Reuters question on deadline this morning

Hello.

The following has been approved by Taron and Karen. I'm prepared to send to Duff.

DSS received an inquiry from HHS regarding our policies pertaining to drug dependent and/or drug exposed newborns and responded to the inquiry in a timely manner. Thereafter, DSS was notified first orally and then in writing by letter dated March 4, 2016, that HHS had identified ways in which the Department's policies needed to be strengthened and/or updated and, as a result, the Department was being placed on a Program Improvement Plan. Immediately upon receipt of HHS' feedback, DSS began working to address the deficiencies and is on track to fully comply with HHS' recommendations for improvement.

From: Symmes, Brian [mailto:BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 12:03 PM
To: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Cc: Matheus, Marilyn <Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov>; Pisarik, Holly <HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Media Request FW: Reuters question on deadline this morning

Additionally, if you haven't already, I would call Duff to make sure he feels acknowledged and let him know that you're working on getting some information for him.

If you guys are going to respond, you should do your best to keep him from running without a response from the agency.

From: Symmes, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:55 AM
To: 'Wingo, Karen'
Cc: Matheus, Marilyn; Pisarik, Holly
Subject: RE: Media Request FW: Reuters question on deadline this morning

I'm looping Holly in on this.

From: Wingo, Karen [mailto:Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Symmes, Brian
Cc: Matheus, Marilyn
Subject: FW: Media Request FW: Reuters question on deadline this morning
Importance: High

Brian,
Making you aware of this media inquiry. Duff is the reporter that ran the story on drug-dependent newborns. I believe his email below is correct and that after the story ran, we were notified that we were being placed on a PIP. We are trying to verify the information below and determine what can be released, if anything, with program staff. However, we may not be able to meet the 12pm deadline. It appears that Duff will run the story regardless, so I wanted to make you aware of it. Give Marilyn or me a call if you have questions or need more info after Marilyn talks with program staff and Duff.

K

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From: Matheus, Marilyn
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:16 AM
To: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: Media Request FW: Reuters question on deadline this morning
Importance: High

See below.

From: Duff.Wilson@thomsonreuters.com [<mailto:Duff.Wilson@thomsonreuters.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 10:11 AM
To: Matheus, Marilyn <Marilyn.Matheus@dss.sc.gov>
Subject: Reuters question on deadline this morning
Importance: High

Marilyn,

HHS says it has an investigation of South Carolina over CAPTA funded plans of safe care for substance-exposed newborns. SC was the only state HHS cited in a letter to Congress that committee chairman Rep. Kline released today. I've attached the letter. Here's the excerpt:

Most recently, ACF investigated South Carolina after becoming aware that the state is not properly implementing the CAPTA-required plans of safe care for substance-exposed newborns. ACF has sent a letter to the state and made contact with officials to discuss and verify the facts of the situation. ACF is now in the process of placing South Carolina on a PIP to address the important CAPTA requirements. As we do when any state is placed on a PIP, we plan to work closely with the state's leadership, providing the necessary technical assistance to support the state as they implement the appropriate policies and practices.

Could we talk by noon EST to review this and get any details or explanation the state could provide? What's going on?

It's a story on deadline because of a congressional hearing on CAPTA this morning.

Please call if I can clarify. Thanks,

Duff

Duff Wilson
Reporter/ Associate Editor
Reuters
Ph. 646-223-6224