

From: Kester, Tony
To: 'Lynnda Bassham' <lbassham@lscog.org>
Date: 5/29/2014 8:23:26 AM
Subject: RE: Mrs. Jones Concerns

Thanks for the copy.

Tony

Tony Kester
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From: Lynnda Bassham [mailto:lbassham@lscog.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 4:03 PM
To: AlisaPainter@scsenate.gov
Cc: Kay Clary; Mary Beth Fields; Connie Shade; Kester, Tony
Subject: Mrs. Jones Concerns

Hi Alisa,

You know that we always happy to hear from you and to follow up on constituent requests and issues! I tried to call you, but was not able to reach you in the office. We met with Ms. Jones last week in Bamberg at the Bamberg County Office on Aging. Present at the meeting were Kay Clary, Executive Director of the Bamberg County Office on Aging, Kim Felder, her finance director, Mary Beth Fields, our Area Agency on Aging Director and me. I am Director of the Division here at LSCOG which operates programs and services for older adults, family members caring for loved ones, adults with disabilities and people who are seeking transportation. A part of what we do involves planning for service development to meet local needs and contract administration of funds appropriated under the Older Americans Act and by the SC General Assembly for services in homes and local community settings for older adults in need.

What Ms. Jones told us she is seeking includes:

- Funding to renovate a building in Denmark to become a community center to help youth, homeless people and older people
- Programs for counseling
- A daily hot meals program
- Other programs and services to be determined

We just completed a procurement process for home delivered and group meals for older adults, transportation services, wellness programs and home care services for seniors who are the most in need. Our purpose is to help older adults stay in their own homes as they age rather than lose their health and go into institutions. Ms. Jones' group did not propose for these funds. The successful offeror from Bamberg County who will be awarded those services for the county is the Bamberg County Office on Aging. They have been the provider of those services for years, and do a very good job. They are an arm of county government, and are mandated to serve seniors in need throughout the entire county. They are currently providing transportation and group meals and home delivered meals to a good number of older adults who live in Denmark. The senior center where the meals are served is seven miles from Denmark. We do not have funds for the renovation of a community center, and have no additional funds

to establish a second group dining program in Denmark. What we did offer Ms. Jones and asked her to take the information back to her constituency in Denmark, is that we have openings for transportation and group meals at the Bamberg Center location, where a number of people from Denmark are currently being served. Kay Clary promised her that they would make it a priority to assess and make services available to people from Denmark who want and can qualify for the meal program, including picking them up and transporting them to the center, if they need it.

Ms. Jones did not seem at all satisfied with that offer, and could not seem to accept our limitations on funding and the purposes for which it can be used. She has since contacted the Lt. Governor's office on Aging and Senator Hutto's office with her request. I wish that we did have the funds to help her, but at this time we don't. We assured her that if we learned of a source for funds for the community center she envisions, we will let her know. We have checked with other divisions in our agency, and they also do not know of funding that is available now for her program.

I hope that this additional information is helpful and adds clarity to the situation. If you see or know of any other way we can address her concerns, please let me know. Thanks for keeping us in the loop. Lynnda