

From: Kester, Tony
To: Marie Waller (MarieWaller@scstatehouse.gov)MarieWaller@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 9/30/2014 4:42:02 PM
Subject: Vital Aging Waiver Requests

Marie,

The Office on Aging Policy and Procedure Manual requires meal sites to serve a minimum of 25 seniors five days a week. This requirement was put in the manual to help assure safe food and minimal revenue for the site. The five day requirement was put in the manual to assure continuity of food to have a positive effect on the senior. If a meal site was not able to meet these requirements, there was the option of requesting a waiver to allow less than minimum numbers. When reviewing the waiver requests, I look at the justification and approve, approve for a 90 to 180 day period, or reject the waiver request. The goal is to encourage meal sites to increase the numbers of seniors served as well as a full five day operation. It is my plan to provide two meals over the week-end if additional funding is approved by the Legislature July 1.

Over the last several years, the trend was to reduce services due to multiple budget cuts. Now funding is on the increase, yet service has lagged behind. The limited approval, 90 to 180 day, gives everyone a chance to review the progress over time to determine if the minimum numbers can be reached. I have never said the waiver could not or would not be renewed. If funding is indeed a limiting factor, this should be a priority by the COG as new dollars are allocated.

I understand from Robert's e-mail he will incur additional costs if he increases from 4 to 5 days. If this is the limiting factor with Robert, how do we expand any service in Williamsburg County? We have limited the capacity of the Office on Aging to those seniors currently served. Expansion due to increasing numbers of seniors is not an option under this scenario. The directive from the enabling legislation by the General Assembly is to serve all seniors and improve the quality of their lives. It does not say serve based on the capacity of the Councils on Aging.

There are many opportunities for our Aging Network, but they must have the ability to expand the numbers and types of services provided. The COG's must also reach out to the network and provide assistance to help accomplish this goal. The Office on Aging is available to assist any COG. We cannot bypass the COG and provide direct assistance to the Council on Aging.

During this transition period, I am aware things cannot change in a short period of time. I do believe the network needs to modernize and look at services and activities the Boomers are expecting and be in a position to meet those needs. As to the 180 day waivers, I am prepared to extend the waivers to June 30, 2015 if there are legitimate factors preventing a site from reaching the minimums.

Hopefully, this answered questions and did not create more. If there are questions, please let me know.

Tony

Tony Kester
Aging Director
South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging
1301 Gervais Street, Suite 350
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone 803-734-9910, Fax 803-734-9886
kester@aging.sc.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic email may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and/or otherwise protected from disclosure to anyone other than its intended recipient(s). Any dissemination or use of this electronic mail or its contents by persons other than the intended recipient(s) is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply email so that we may correct our internal records. Please then delete the original message.