

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
To: Godfrey, Rob <RobGodfrey@gov.sc.gov>
Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Date: 8/10/2016 3:22:28 PM
Subject: FW: Draft Email to Maya

I'm largely good with these answers below from Karen to Maya aside from a few grammatical issues.

Whatcha think, Rob?

From: Wingo, Karen [mailto:Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 3:08 PM
To: Symmes, Brian; Adams, Chaney
Subject: RE: Draft Email to Maya

She did not; she said she had been asked to "chase" the fitsnews story and was going to draft a FOIA request on overtime paid to staff, but wanted to reach out first. I told her there was no need for a FOIA request because we want to respond to this story since it has no merit and I would work to see what data points I could quickly provide her today to respond to the general allegations.

Karen Luchka Wingo
Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs
South Carolina Department of Social Services
1535 Confederate Avenue
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From: Symmes, Brian [mailto:BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 3:06 PM
To: Wingo, Karen <Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov>; Adams, Chaney <ChaneyAdams@gov.sc.gov>
Subject: RE: Draft Email to Maya

This looks like good stuff... Did Maya email you questions? If so, can you send them along to us?

From: Wingo, Karen [mailto:Karen.Wingo@dss.sc.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 3:00 PM
To: Adams, Chaney; Symmes, Brian
Subject: Draft Email to Maya

Maya,

Thanks for reaching out to us regarding the story regarding overtime pay for caseworker assistants. As you know from your experience reporting on DSS, caseworker assistants are a relatively new position added to help address caseloads. Therefore, there is not a lot of historical data regarding caseworker assistants. Nevertheless, our compensation practices are consistent with both federal and state law. In particular, our policies make clear that staff are to record all hours worked and will receive compensatory (comp) time in lieu of overtime. The Department's overtime/comp time practices in Lexington County were reviewed by the Inspector General in the Fall of 2015. While noting the ongoing issues with caseloads, the Inspector General found no violation of federal or state law. Nevertheless, SCDSS sent out an email to all county and regional child welfare management staff in September 2015 reminding management that employee are to "document all time worked in the SCEIS system..."

A review of our data indicates that the Department routinely grants compensatory time to employees demonstrating compliance with our policies and law. In particular, the amount of compensatory time and on-call pay given to employees in state fiscal year 2016 was the equivalent of over \$805,000. This is a significant increase from the approximately equivalent of approximately \$300,000 granted both the two preceding state fiscal years. The increase is attributable largely to the Department's response to the historic flooding, but demonstrates that the Department appropriately awards employees compensatory time. A current snapshot of information regarding caseworker assistants shows eleven instances of compensatory time being accrued by caseworker assistants across multiple counties.

Please let me know if you have any further questions. Have a great day, Karen

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