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Date: 6/3/2016 6:15:34 AM
Subject: RE: DRAFT Class Action Press Release.docx

Thanks Holly, Tony and Amanda for burning the midnight oil. I am out of the office until after lunch so I assume you will get the Settlement Agreement signed and the signatures to Matthew. We enjoyed working with you, Tony, Amanda, Taron, John and others at DSS on this journey! Hope you can get some rest this weekend.

-----Original Message-----

From: Pisarik, Holly [mailto:HollyPisarik@gov.sc.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2016 12:57 AM
To: Matthew T. Richardson <MRichardson@wyche.com>; Ira Lustbader <ilustbader@childrensrighs.org>
Cc: Monty Todd <mtodd@sowellgray.com>; Becky Laffitte <blaffitte@sowellgray.com>; Butch Bowers <butch@butchbowers.com>; Tony Catone - DSS <tony.catone@dss.sc.gov>; Amanda. Whittle@dss.sc.gov
Subject: DRAFT Class Action Press Release.docx

As I mentioned in my last e-mail, this may not be the final version, but DSS's release will have a similar message.

In addition to the attached release from DSS, the Governor will release a statement along the lines of, "There is nothing more important than the safety of our children and our most vulnerable citizens, particularly those under the care of DSS. Whether its increasing the number of caseworkers or working with partners across state government and in our communities, we remain focused on strengthening DSS. This settlement agreement represents yet another step in this process, and I applaud the work Director Alford and her team do everyday."

My only comment (although others may also have comments) to your draft release pertains to the following sentence: "The settlement, filed in federal court today, is the result of the class action Michelle H. v. Haley, which seeks improvements on behalf of nearly 3,400 abused and neglected children statewide." This sentence is ambiguous as to whom you allege caused or is responsible for the abuse and neglect, and thus, could be interpreted to mean the lawsuit seeks improvement for 3,400 children abused or neglected while in DSS care. Could you revise it to read something like, "The settlement, filed in federal court today, is the result of the class action Michelle H. v. Haley, which seeks improvement on behalf of nearly 3,400 foster children statewide." Or on behalf of nearly 3,400 children in foster care due to abuse and neglect (wordy, I know).

We'll let you know in the morning as soon as we have signatures.

Thanks, Holly

Holly G. Pisarik
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