

From: Bolick, Leigh <Leigh.Bolick@dss.sc.gov>
To: Baker, JoshJoshBaker@gov.sc.gov
Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov
Date: 3/12/2013 10:22:12 AM
Subject: FW: Spencer Scott - 4K CDEPP - Child Development Education Pilot Program - First Steps Issue

Hi – I just wanted to keep you informed about this, since you asked for examples of poor management at FS.

I have good relationships with many of the local FS staff and am sometimes copied on issues they are having with the state office.

I don't know all of the details of this situation, but the gist is this: State FS promised Florence/Marion counties (they are combined under one Director, Spencer Scott) monies associated with CDEPP. Whatever the services were that were rendered, FS subsequently refused to make the payment.

The boards of Florence and Marion counties have hired an attorney, and plan to sue the state office if they don't pay.

While this would not seem to be an issue for your office, it speaks to overall management of the state office and to an issue in the First Steps bill: the proposed 60/40 split, which would give the state FS more control over the local arms.

This would seem to be about accountability, never a bad thing; the problem, however, is that the management at the state FS is so poor that the counties feel like these decisions are made based on personal vendettas. In this instance, there is plenty of reason to think it is personal: Spencer Scott was investigated by state FS over some trumped up issues a few years ago, in direct opposition to the wishes of his board, and usurping their authority. My understanding is that he was cleared (in an odd twist, DSS Office of Investigation agreed to do it under a former DSS director).

This email also alludes to a practice state FS has engaged in for some time: paying "stipends" to staff for taking on additional work, even though their staff is already paid in whole or in part with state and federal funds. They appear to have put a stop to it, at least in this case.

Should you need to contact a couple of these folks at any point to discuss state FS mismanagement, they are willing to speak to you.

Spencer Scott, 843-250-0234 – FS ED for Florence and Marion Counties
Tony Nolan, 843-680-1176 – Board Chair, Chesterfield County (he testified at subcommittee against the 60/40 split)

Update: Tony Nolan just called me. Apparently, Susan had to drop the 60/40 language out of the bill. There was a conference call yesterday, prior to this, when Susan lashed out at the counties for speaking out, and Joe Waters threatened them all not to "go outside the FS family" with their concerns.

Joe Waters is alienating everyone he comes into contact with and is a big problem.

Just FYI for your Tuesday morning!

L

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From: scott2omega@hotmail.com

To: wfleming@peedeecap.org

CC: instaley@yahoo.com

Subject: Spencer Scott - 4K CDEPP - Child Development Education Pilot Program

Date: Thu, 21 Jun 2012 02:23:24 +0000

Mr. Fleming,

Thank you for meeting with me this morning. I've tried numerous times to meet with Dan Wouri and Susan DeVenny over the past two years.

I've copied my board to keep them informed of my attempts and they have continuously put me off. I have obtained Attorney John Clark

to represent me if I am not paid for services rendered. I am trying to avoid this going outside of the First Steps family.

Below is the stipends I received for implementing the 4K Child Development Education Pilot Program:

2006-2007 Beginning of the program

2007-2008 Stipend paid \$2,957 for FY 07

2008-2009 Stipend paid \$6,118 for FY 08

2009-2010 Stipend paid \$6,347 for FY 09

*Dan Wouri wrote guidelines in the middle of the year stopping salary employees from receiving stipends.

Although, service has been rendered.

Amount Owed:

2010-2011 Stipend Not Paid \$6,611 FY 10

2011-2012 Stipend Not Paid and amount was not given to the County Partnerships for FY 11.

These funds should appear in the FY 12 budget.

As I mentioned, we worked the entire year and got reimbursed after the total number of kids were determined. Once the amount was calculated, the funds was put in following year after services was rendered.

If you have any questions, I am available by cell phone 843-250-0234.