



KEVIN L. BRYANT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 142
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

November 28, 2017

David L. Omura, Medical Center Director
WJB Dorn VA Medical Center
6439 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29209

Re: Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program (VDHCBS)

Dear Director Omura:

On behalf of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging (LGOA), I am writing to request written notification of the termination of the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program (VDHCBS) per Section G of the Provider Agreement between the LGOA and Dorn VA, dated May 19, 2016. I am also requesting explicit information on the transition plan you will implement for the veterans who utilize the VDHCBS Program (Program) so that the LGOA can properly notify the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that the LGOA has agreements with to serve as Care Coordinators.

On October 18, 2017, the LGOA learned of your intent to terminate the Program through a copy of the letter sent to the enrolled Veterans. This information was shared not through the VA but was provided by an AAA Director in our network. This was in violation of the Provider Agreement between Dorn VA and the LGOA, requiring 45 days written notice of the intent to cancel the agreement. To date, the LGOA has yet to receive proper written notification of the intent to end this Program.

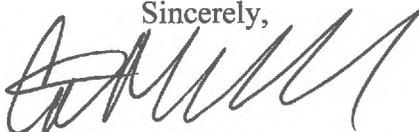
Since the LGOA learned of your intent to terminate the Program, the LGOA has attempted to work with Dorn VA to understand the exact mechanics of terminating this program. In particular, you originally made the offer for enrolled Veterans to utilize their Rainy Day Funds after the formal end of the Program (November 30, 2017). The LGOA has engaged in meetings with Public Partnership, LLC (PPL), the fiscal intermediary, to discuss the feasibility of extending their services past November 30th in order to administer the Rainy Day Funds. Additionally, this commitment to make the Rainy Day Funds available was conveyed to the enrolled Veterans in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document you sent to the Program participants. An AAA sent a copy of this document to the LGOA on November 1, 2017. In order to assist with the transition for enrolled veterans who have Rainy Day Funds, we need a clear understanding of how those funds should be administered.

This letter is to formally request written notification of the termination of this Program and information on your transition plan for the enrolled Veterans in the Program. Specifically:

1. Is it your intent to allow the Veterans to use their respective Rainy Day Funds, as stated in your FAQ sheet? If so, do you expect PPL and the LGOA to maintain the infrastructure for administering the Program while Rainy Day Funds are utilized?
2. As many Veterans and their families have contacted the LGOA with questions regarding services, is it the intent of Dorn VA to provide comprehensive services to the enrolled Veterans, so they are able to stay in their homes, recognizing that the Program provides consumer direction and greater service hours than the standard VA offerings?
3. Is Dorn VA ready and able to provide the enrolled Veterans alternative and comparable services as of December 1, 2017?
4. Please provide a central referral person/contact number for Dorn VA so that questions may be directed to the appropriate person by the LGOA and/or AAA Care Coordinators.
5. Enumerate any other considerations the LGOA needs to be aware of, so as to provide the best information and services possible to our Veterans during this holiday season.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and guidance as we try to make this transition as smooth as possible for our Veterans.

Sincerely,



Catherine McNicoll, Esq.
Director of Legal and Legislative Affairs

Cc: Howard Metcalf, Director, South Carolina Division of Veterans' Affairs