

From: Wendy Duda <wduda@yccoa.com>  
To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
Date: 9/17/2014 2:19:15 PM  
Subject: I am mad!!!!

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Hi Tony, I am so angry and found out that you are in Washington so I cannot vent. Thus this email. Today Barbara had a phone conference with Jennifer VanCleeve and your Dietician concerning my menus for the current quarter which ends in a week and a half. First of all, I was asked two weeks ago to resubmit the menus with dates for each menu. I did this and then I hear from them after these meals have been served for two and a half months, that they are not adequate. The problem is that they feel that the number of calories per meal should be between 600 and 800 calories. Three of the twenty days for this menu cycle had meals with calorie counts of 823, 874, and 977. Is this really the most critical problem in the Aging network and worthy of a conference call? Whose center is it that you bring people to when you want to show a good quality meal? The regulations for meals have needed to be revised for years and have not been, yet we are going to restrict the number of calories that older adults can eat when this is the only meal most of them eat each day. We serve fresh fruit and vegetables and make every effort to see that they have the healthiest meal possible. I have seen the garbage that comes in both the catered and frozen meals and if that is the best that we can do, we should be ashamed. If the clients can't or won't eat it, I guess it doesn't even matter how many calories there are in the meal.

With half of the money received in SC going to food, can you really tell me that the calorie count of my menus is more important than the quality of the food served. I dare say there is no better food served to seniors anywhere. Your dietitian also complained that my Food Service Director was inappropriate in something he said about the menus to the Dietitian with whom we contract. I pay this girl \$125 an hour and she works for us. I do not feel it appropriate for your employee to be calling someone that I am paying to discuss my menus. This is the same Dietitian that feels that she cannot spend her time coming up with Nutrition Education for the providers and that we should add this cost to our meals-really!!! I think this is part of the problem with the aging system right now. How many more useless regulations are we going to add to the cost of a service before it stops.

I respect you very much and feel that I should let you know how I feel before I do anything else. I do think that I will call Yancy and invite him to bring his staff and eat the roast beef meal we had during your last visit-which just so happens to be the 977 calorie meal they find so disgusting and see if this is really hurtful to our seniors. Tony, please stop this madness and give your staff something to do that might help the aging network. Thanks for listening. Wendy