



John Bel Edwards
Governor

April 5, 2017

Dr. Brandon Dumas, Chairman
[Redacted]
Baton Rouge LA 70810

State
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Sent To	Dr. Brandon Dumas		
Street, Apt or PO Box	[Redacted]		
City, State	Baton Rouge LA 70810		
PS Form 3800, August 2005		See Reverse for Instructions	

Dear Dr. Dumas,

The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs (GOEA) was served a copy of the Formal Complaint from the family of Ms. Helen Plummer who was a client of East Baton Rouge Council on Aging (EBR COA). According to the complaint, the EBR COA Executive Director, Tasha Clark-Amar, EBR COA Board Member, Dorothy Jackson, and EBR COA employee, Trudy Bihm, are all listed in the Last Will and Testament of Ms. Plummer as Executors of the estate. Mrs. Clark-Amar is to receive \$500 per month over a 20-year period and 2.5% of the value of the estate, per the complaint. In the event Ms. Clark-Amar is unavailable, Ms. Bihm would serve as the Executor and receive the same compensation. Furthermore, Ms. Jackson drafted the Last Will and Testament and stands to receive attorney's fees from the estate, per the complaint.

The GOEA has acquired a copy of Ms. Plummer's Last Will and Testament and is requiring a Plan of Action from the EBR COA Board of Directors. The Plan of Action must include the following:

- How will the Board verify Mrs. Clark-Amar, EBR COA Board Members, or any other EBR COA employees have not been listed in any other Last Will and Testament of an EBR COA client as an Executor or Beneficiary?
- What actions will the Board take to remedy, what GOEA considers, a conflict of interest and unethical behavior of EBR COA staff and Board Members?
- What policies and procedures will be put in place to prevent this from happening again?
- Why Ms. Plummer was not referred to Southeast LA Legal Services, the EBR COA contractor who provides legal assistance for their clients, according to the EBR COA Area Plan/Service Procurement?

The response is due to the GOEA by April 17, 2017. Should no response be received, further action may be taken.

Sincerely,

Teresa J. Broussard

Teresa J. Broussard, CIA
C & P and HCBS Director

cc: East Baton Rouge COA Board of Directors

Karen Ryder - Letter

From: Karen Ryder
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 4/10/2017 2:19 PM
Subject: Letter
Bc: Ryder, Karen; Stafford, Danielle; Bruce Parker (GOV)

Good Afternoon Dr. Dumas,

Thank for your call today to clarify the intent of GOEA's letter to EBR COA. We would like for the board to determine if they believe a conflict of interest and/or unethical behavior existed in the matter described in the letter. If so, submit to this office an action plan that would address it.

Karen

Karen J. Ryder
Deputy Assistant Secretary 2
Office of Elderly Affairs

"The power of accurate observation is commonly called cynicism by those who have not got it." -George Bernard Shaw