



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

September 10, 2010

Nila Benito
Florida Center for Inclusive Communities
Division of Applied Research and Educational Support
University of South Florida, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute
Department of Child and Family Studies
13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., MHC 2113A
Tampa, FL 33612-3807

Dear Ms. Benito,

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) received a letter that alleges federal funds were used to engage in lobbying activities. Specifically, the allegations assert that federal funds were used to disseminate email messages about Senate Bills 1166 and 1124 related to residential placements for people with developmental disabilities, because these messages were sent using your University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)-affiliated/University of South Florida (USF) email address.

In reviewing these allegations, ADD found that you posted two messages to the Florida Coalition for the Education of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (CEIDD) electronic bulletin board using your UCEDD-affiliated/USF email address. The first post, "Petition Against DD Residential Villages Proposed in FL Legislature" is titled, "*STOP DISCRIMINATION, ABUSE & SEGREGATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES". This message appears to utilize the type of "inflammatory and disparaging terms" that are prohibited by ACF policy (ADD-PI-01-1).

ADD would like to remind you that posting advocacy-oriented materials on the CEIDD message board from your UCEDD-affiliated/ University of South Florida (USF) email address affiliates these messages with a federally-funded grant in a questionable manner, particularly when the message could be viewed as inflammatory more so than permissible "nonpartisan analysis, study and research" (ADD-PI-01-1). We would also like to remind you that under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights of 2000, ADD grantees are authorized to educate, advise, and inform Federal, State and local policymakers on issues that have an impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by emphasizing nonpartisan analysis, study and research.

Thank you for your consideration, time, and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon B. Lewis", written over a circular stamp.

Sharon B. Lewis
Commissioner

Administration on Developmental Disabilities

Cc: Lise Fox, Ph.D., Director