



**Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust**

**Report of Investigation**

**Investigator:** Susannah Nesmith

<b>Case:</b> 18-02	<b>Case Name:</b> Davis-Raiford	<b><u>Date Open:</u></b> 1/16/2018	<b><u>Date Closed:</u></b>
<b>Complainant(s):</b>	<b>Subject(s):</b> Lucia Davis-Raiford	<b>CASE CLOSED</b> Date: <u>2/8/2018</u>	

**Allegation(s):**

Ms. Davis-Raiford has directed staffers to provide services to her mother, Carrie Meek.

**Relevant Law:**

**Sec. 2-11.1 (g)**  
Exploitation of official position prohibited. No person included in the terms defined in subsection (b) (1) through (6) and (b) (13) shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or herself or others except as may be specifically permitted by other ordinances and resolutions previously ordained or adopted or hereafter to be ordained or adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Investigation:**

**Interviews:**

On 2/15/18, this investigator spoke with the complainant who asked for anonymity because he's concerned he will be fired. He explained that a home care aide named Nicole spends every day at Carrie Meek's home, helping her with grooming and doing light housework. He said he had also been sent to Mrs. Meek's home to do chores for her.

On 2/23/2018, this investigator along with Public Advocate Michael Murawski interviewed Ms. Davis-Raiford at her office in the Overtown Transit Village. Ms. Davis-Raiford explained that her mother, Carrie Meek, began receiving services from the county before she was put in charge of the Community Action and Human Services Department. She said she had nothing to do with her mother receiving services from the county.

Ms. Davis-Raiford asked Edeline Mondestin, chief of elderly and disability services, to explain how Mrs. Meek first began receiving services.

Ms. Mondestin said the previous director, Phyllis Tynes Saunders called her in to her office in early 2011 and asked if she knew who Carrie Meek was. When Ms. Mondestin said she did, Tynes Saunders told her to go to Mrs. Meek's home and assess her for services.

"She wanted me to handle it personally because she's a congresswoman and we don't want to open her house to just anyone."

She said she evaluated Mrs. Meek and found she met the department's requirements for services. She showed this investigator and Mr. Murawski the assessment she filled out at the time.

Ms. Davis-Raiford and Ms. Mondestin said there is no income eligibility requirements for home care aides.

On Feb. 28, 2018, this investigator interviewed Phyllis Tynes Saunders, who had been director of the Department of Human Services before the reorganization in late 2011. She said she did not recall sending Ms. Mondestin to assess Carrie Meek. She also did not recall authorizing Mrs. Meek to have the services of a home health aide for eight hours a day.

"If I did authorize that, it would have been because she was eligible for services based on the rules."

"If there was an income requirement and Congresswoman Meek weren't eligible, she wouldn't have been getting those services."

On April 26, 2018, this investigator conducted a follow-up interview with Ms. Mondestin. She explained that there were no waiting lists in 2011, because the county had a rather informal intake system for senior services.

“Intake and referral, if we could serve them, we served them. If not, we referred them,” she explained.

She changed that system in 2012, when she took over the division, instituting a stricter accounting of the services residents were requesting.

“Now we report it to the state,” she said.

Some residents who ask for services are put on a waiting list because the county does not have enough local money, or enough money from state and federal sources, to serve everyone. This waiting list changed in 2014 when the state ended the Medicaid waiver program and mandated that all Medicaid patients be transferred to seven providers.

Because of these changes, both in the way the intake was recorded and in the Medicaid program, there are now approximately 500 people on a waiting list for services. People are taken off the waiting list based on their priority score – a number reached by assessing how severe their need is – not by how long they’ve been on the waiting list.

Each year, the roughly 15,900 people who are receiving services are rescreened in order to determine if they still need those services, she said.

There are no waiting lists for any of the feeding centers, but most other services do have waiting lists at this point.

***Document(s) Reviewed:***

Carrie Meek’s file at CAHS. The “narrative notes” show that Ms. Tynes Saunders directed Ms. Mondestin to assess Mrs. Meek on 1/26/2011, which she did on 2/2/2011. The “care plan” Ms. Mondestin filled out called for Mrs. Meek to get four hours a day of housekeeping and four hours a day of assistance with activities of daily living. According to the care plan, services began on March 16, 2011.

Ms. Lucia-Raiford’s personnel file, which shows she took over CAHSD on Oct. 11, 2011.

INQ13-175, requested by Ms. Davis-Raiford, regarding whether her family members can receive county social services that they are eligible for, even if those services come from the department she leads. COE staff advised they could. (The INQ was regarding Ms. Davis-Raiford’s daughter, not her mother.)

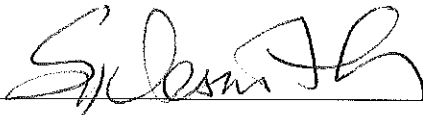
Procedural Memorandum B001 titled "Client Eligibility Criteria." The memo explains the eligibility criteria for the Home Care Program. There is no criteria regarding income. The memo was last updated in March 2011.

The Home Care Aide Handbook published by the Department of Human Services in 1997. It does not include anything on eligibility.

The Home Care Program monthly client tally sheet from 2011, reflecting some clients were referred to outside providers. The tally sheets were unearthed by Ms. Mondestim.

**Conclusion:**

After discussion with the Ethics Advocate, it was determined that there is insufficient evidence to believe that the subject, Lucia Davis-Raiford, exploited her position in any way to get services for her mother, Carrie Meek. Moreover, any violation would be barred by the statute of limitations because the alleged exploitation occurred in 2011, which is beyond the COE's three year statute of limitations. Accordingly, this matter is closed with no further action.

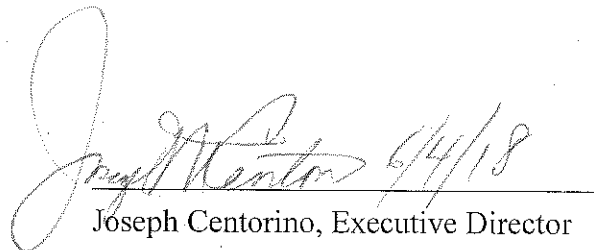


Susannah Nesmith, COE Investigator

Approved by:



Michael Murawski, Advocate



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