

[NOTE: Public records attached to “notification of final response” emails shown here, are not included]

From: Tim Reiersen <@proton.me>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 7:24 PM
To: Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS) <@samhsa.hhs.gov>
Cc: HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <@hhs.gov>; @nara.gov; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <@hhs.gov>
Subject: RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168- Final Response 4

I received your four emails today, each with a pdf file attached numbered 1-4.

I have a couple requests for clarification:

1. Would you please explain the significance of the entries (b)(4) and (b)(6) throughout the provided documents, in the context of my public records request? I can see that they are indicating redactions, but my question is, what is the basis for the redactions?
2. Would you please confirm instructions and timeline for filing an appeal or otherwise seeking redress?

Sincerely,
Tim Reiersen
he/him RYE er sun

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From: Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS)
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:12 PM
To: 'Tim Reiersen' <[@proton.me](mailto:tim.reiersen@proton.me)>
Cc: HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@hhs.gov)>; ' @nara.gov'
< [@nara.gov](mailto:public.liaison@nara.gov)>; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@hhs.gov)>
Subject: RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168- Final Response 3

From: Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS)
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:12 PM
To: Tim Reiersen <[@proton.me](mailto:tim.reiersen@proton.me)>
Cc: HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@hhs.gov)>; [@nara.gov](mailto:public.liaison@nara.gov); Lancey,
Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@hhs.gov)>
Subject: RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168- Final Response 2

From: Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS)
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:08 PM
To: 'Tim Reiersen' <[@proton.me](mailto:tim.reiersen@proton.me)>
Cc: HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@hhs.gov)>; ' @nara.gov'
< [@nara.gov](mailto:public.liaison@nara.gov)>; Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@hhs.gov)>
Subject: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168

Mr. Reiersen,

I do want to apologize for this delay as I was unaware that you never received the requested information. I originally sent the above responsive documents to you on July 18, 2023 but unfortunately due to size limits transmitting they were never successfully sent to you. I have tried to resend several times today but I am receiving an undeliverable message that the file exceeded the set size limits. Therefore, I am attaching the documents into separate emails this time to ensure that they are received without any further delays.

I would ask that you confirm the receipt of the emails.

Please see the attached documents as this is what was received and processed by the SAMHSA FOIA office.

Thanks,

Farrah Monroe-Cook
FOIA Officer
Executive Correspondence and Support Branch
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
[@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:public.liaison@samhsa.hhs.gov)

FOIA 2ND APPEAL Attachment 3

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane • Rockville, MD 20857
www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)



To efficiently correspond with the SAMHSA FOIA Office during the COVID-19 public health emergency, we request that you communicate with us by email at FOIA@samhsa.gov.

If you do not have access to email or choose not to use it, you can continue to send correspondence to the FOIA Office mailing address provided in this letter. However, this correspondence may be significantly delayed due to the pandemic.

July 18, 2023

Sent via Email

Mr. Tim Reierson
[@proton.me](mailto:tim.reierson@proton.me)

Dear Mr. Reierson:

This is the final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) [/Privacy Act] request dated August 15, 2022. Your request pertaining to information regarding the Suicide Prevention Lifeline has been assigned request number 08152022S168. Please refer to this number on any future correspondence.

Please be advised your request was re-submitted to the 988 team for processing. Based on the response received from this office, I am providing you with the requested information and closing the files on this request.

If you have any questions or are not satisfied with the processing and handling of this request, you may contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) FOIA Officer and/or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS):

SAMHSA FOIA Officer
Farrah Monroe-Cook
Government Information Specialist
Executive Correspondence and Support Branch
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
[@samhsa.gov](mailto:farrah.monroe-cook@samhsa.gov)

OGIS
National Archives and Records Admin
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
202-741-5770 (phone)
1-877-684-6448 (toll-free)
202-741-5769 (fax)
[@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) (email)

Behavioral Health is Essential to Health • Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover

FOIA 2ND APPEAL Attachment 3

Mr. Tim Reiersen

You have the right to appeal this determination. Your appeal can be submitted by email or in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services FOIA and Appeal Portal within 90 days from the date of this letter to:

William Holzerland
Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Email: [@hhs.gov](mailto: @hhs.gov)
Portal: <https://requests.publiclink.hhs.gov/App/Index.aspx>

Sincerely,

Farrak Monroe-Cook

Farrak Monroe-Cook
SAMHSA FOIA Officer

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727) • 1-800-487-4889 (TDD) • www.samhsa.gov

From: Tim Reiersen <[@proton.me](mailto:tim@proton.me)>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:10 AM
To: Lancey, Brandon (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:lancey@hhs.gov)>
Cc: HHS FOIA Public Liaison (OS/ASPA) <[@hhs.gov](mailto:hhs.foia@hhs.gov)>; [@nara.gov](mailto:nara@nara.gov);
Monroe-Cook, Farrah (SAMHSA/OAS) <[@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:farrah@samhsa.hhs.gov)>
Subject: RE: Seeking Understanding - FOIA #08152022S168

Good morning,

I have received no response from anyone to my lengthy email of May 12, 2023. I hope someone has read it and considered it. I no longer expect any kind of written response to the concerns I raised there.

Returning to my still-pending FOIA request (number given above, original requested made August 15, 2022, requested clarifications provided December 14, 2022). I appealed SAMHSA's original response (no documents) on April 17, 2023. On April 20, 2023 I received a response from Brandon Lancey saying my FOIA request (as revised) was being remanded back to SAMHSA for completion, estimated to be within 3 to 4 weeks of the letter. It is now 21 weeks later, and I have not received responsive documents, or even an update.

NEW INFORMATION

I've received information, that I consider very reliable, that SAMHSA has been communicating extensively with Vibrant and Crisis Text Line during the time frame of documents I've requested. In other words, there should be a lot of emails, at the least.

Please also recall that the first response I was given (SAMHSA's letter to me dated January 20, 2023) was that: "After careful review, it has been determined that all records requested belong to Vibrant Emotional Health, the 988 Lifeline Administrator, a SAMHSA Grantee. Therefore, SAMHSA does not have any federal records to provided for this request." Though I disagreed with this response, I actually tried to get documents from Vibrant. Vibrant refused to give me any records.

I am writing to let you know I am still waiting. These records are very important to me. I will be appreciative of any effort towards a thorough search and responsive set of documents, but I feel it is very unreasonable to be kept waiting indefinitely.

Sincerely,
Tim Reierson (he/him)