

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 08-104

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 3:12 PM
To: Raymond, David (HT)
Subject: RE: Ethics Opinion

Hi David,

For some reason, I was under the impression that you did not need a written opinion from me. In any event, you explained in your e-mail that you are the executive director of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust and also serve on the Alliance for Human Services Board of Directors. The Homeless Trust recently released a Request for Qualifications and you were to chair the selection committee. One of the applicants was the Alliance for Human Services and you wish to know whether you have a real or perceived conflict.

Based on the relevant provisions of the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance, a conflict of interest exists only if you stand to financially benefit from your affiliation with the Alliance for Human Services or you exploit your official position as executive director of the Homeless Trust for the benefit of a third party. Since you sit on the board of the Alliance as a volunteer, there is no legal conflict that would prevent you from reviewing those who responded to the RQO and serve as selection committee chair to make a recommendation to the Homeless Trust Board. However, I can understand the sentiment that holds you may have a perceived bias due to your position with the Alliance. Please understand the ethics code does not address appearances of impropriety or perceived conflicts of interest and I cannot advise you that the scenario you have presented results in an actual conflict.

My suggestion to you is to disclose to the Homeless Trust Board that you have a relationship with one of the applicants and let the Homeless Trust decide the proper course of action to take in this matter. If the contract were to be awarded to the Alliance for Human Services and you, in your capacity of executive director, had no choice but to be involved with this contract, you may want to consider resigning from the Alliance for Human Services Board.

If you wish to discuss, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Robert

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
(305) 350-0613

From: Raymond, David (HT)
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 10:02 AM
To: Raymond, David (HT); Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Dashtaki, Mandana (CAO)
Subject: RE: Ethics Opinion

Hi Robert,

Just checking back on this.

Thanks,
David

6/9/2008

From: Raymond, David (HT)
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 4:14 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Cc: Dashtaki, Mandana (CAO)
Subject: Ethics Opinion

Hi Robert,

Good speaking with you today. I am following up on the issue we discussed earlier.

In my capacity as executive director of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, I also serve on the Alliance for Human Services (AHS) Board of Directors. I am the treasurer/secretary of the AHS Board. The AHS is also under contract with the County to prepare a Social Service Master Plan.

The Homeless Trust recently released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an evaluation of our Homeless Continuum of Care. I was to chair a selection committee which would determine who would be recommended to the Homeless Trust Board for a contract with the County to perform this evaluation. The RFQ was done in a manner which would require my personal interaction to develop a scope of work. One of the applicants, turned out to be the Alliance for Human Services. Given my capacity on their Board, I believe as though I have a real or perceived conflict in this situation and am seeking guidance from your office.

Regards,
David

David Raymond, Executive Director
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If you or someone you know is Homeless or about to become homeless, please call the Homeless Helpline at 1-877-994-HELP. If you are seeking affordable housing, or additional information please visit us on the Web at www.miamidade.gov/homeless
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