

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

ING 09-100

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 9:34 AM  
**To:** 'Mo Abety'  
**Cc:** Arista-Volsky, Maria (CAO)  
**Subject:** RE: [Fwd: RE: FW: The Belafonte TACOLCY Site Visit]

Mo:

You have posed an interesting question, but one that is outside the scope of the Ethics Commission's authority. The fundamental issue here is whether The Children's Trust is a County board and our office would leave such a determination to the County Attorney's Office.

Robert Meyers

**From:** Mo Abety [mailto:mo@thechildrenstrust.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2009 5:00 PM  
**To:** Charles Auslander  
**Cc:** Meyers, Robert (COE); Arista-Volsky, Maria (CAO)  
**Subject:** Re: [Fwd: RE: FW: The Belafonte TACOLCY Site Visit]

Robert:

I also have another request/question:

Must a member of The Children's Trust board who decides to run for public office resign from The Children's Trust Board, even if that run is not for the Board of County Commissioners?

Mo

Charles Auslander wrote:  
 Dear Robert:

I have been asked by The Children's Trust board chair Maria Alonso and by our assistant county attorney, Maria Arista-Volsky, through President/CEO Modesto Abety, to ask for an opinion from your office concerning an event proposed by a contracted provider of The Children's Trust on June 23, 2009. We were just notified of the event recently. Because it is set for June 24 and June 25, I apologize for having to seek an expedited opinion from you and for the informality of this request given time constraints.

In short, Belafonte Tacolcy (BT) is a provider currently under contract with The Children's Trust to provide after school and summer camp services. BT seeks continued funding from The Children's Trust for after school services -- there is an appeal pending from a recommendation not to fund after school services, under a competitive procurement. The program in question is funded, at least in significant part, by The Children's Trust, as per the provider's email to our Board members.

BT sent an email invitation to most board members (there have been some changes in membership so that not all current board members received the email), found below. The Trust seeks an opinion as to whether the request in question from BT comports with the Sunshine Law and any applicable conflict of

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interest and ethics policies, as well as any lobbying restrictions. The full emailing header and message from the provider are copied just below:

From: Stephanie Sylvestre [mailto:ssylvestre@tacolcy.org]  
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 5:00 PM  
To: Isabel.afanador@djj.state.fl.us; Yalaman@FR-Aleman.com; Maria Alonso; karena@utofd.com; bassh@gtlaw.com; Kingsley.Banya@fiu.edu; mbalsera@dadeschools.net; dbierman@bslcrimlaw.com; wilblechman@aol.com; corporateeagle\_co09@yahoo.com; superintendent'soffice@dadeschools.net; jacqui\_colyer@dcf.state.fl.us; Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez; bdiggs@m-dcc.org; Gazitua@miamidade.gov; nsgmia@aol.com; Ben\_Gilbert@fpl.com; mindyky@aol.com; charisse.grant@dadecommunityfoundation.org; jgregoire@dadeschools.net; Bjordan@miamidade.gov; martinkarp@dadeschools.net; silvia@kidco-childcare.org; firevenger@aol.com; Rosa\_Martin2@doh.state.fl.us; yolly.roberson@myfloridahouse.gov; info@salver.com; jschaechter@miami.edu; etorres@elcmdm.org; davestorkwilliams1@netzero.com; chetzerlin@miamisao.com

Cc: mo@thechildrenstrust.org; Alison Austin  
Subject: The Belafonte TACOLCY Site Visit

Greetings,

As a follow-up to my invitation at the Board of Director's meeting on June 8th. The staff and clients at the Belafonte TACOLCY Center would like to host you on Wednesday, June 24th and Thursday, June 25th from 8:30 am to 9:30 am. During this time, you will get an opportunity to experience Harambee and see how the Children Trust dollars are working to develop the next generation of leaders.

Please RSVP to Stephanie Sylvestre at 305-479-4203 or ssylvestre@tacolcy.org<mailto:ssylvestre@tacolcy.org> which day you will join us. We kindly request an RSVP by Monday, June 22nd.

Thanks,

Stephanie Sylvestre  
Chief Operations Officer  
The Belafonte TACOLCY Center  
6161 NW 9th Ave  
Miami, FL 33127  
ssylvestre@tacolcy.org<mailto:ssylvestre@tacolcy.org>  
305-479-4203

"Personally, I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."

--Winston

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Churchill<[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/literature/laureates/1953/churchill-bio.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1953/churchill-bio.html)>, former British prime minister

Thank you for your able assistance in and prompt attention to this matter.

Charles

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Modesto E. Abety  
President and CEO  
The Children's Trust  
3150 SW 3rd Avenue (Coral Way), 8th Floor  
Miami, Florida 33129  
Tel: 305-571-5700, Ext.244  
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[mo@thechildrenstrust.org](mailto:mo@thechildrenstrust.org)  
[www.thechildrenstrust.org](http://www.thechildrenstrust.org)

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