

Meyers, Robert (COE)~~INQ~~ 11-31

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 1:05 PM
To: Negron-Soto, Gladys (JAC)
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR OPINION

Dear Dr. Negron-Soto:

Thank you for your request for opinion. The County ethics ordinance prohibits County employees from accepting travel or travel-related expenses from County vendors, service providers, bidders or proposers. Based on the facts of your e-mail, you indicate that there is no current contractual relationship between the consultant (Crowe Horwath) and the County. Accepting this statement as true, the only question remains whether Crowe Horwath is currently seeking future County business. Assuming the company is not, then Ms. Molina would be permitted to accept Crowe Horwath's offer to cover her travel expenses connected to the 2011 National Symposium on Juvenile Justice.

If you have any further questions or wish to discuss, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: Negron-Soto, Gladys (JAC)
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: REQUEST FOR OPINION

Mr. Meyers,

On behalf of the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department can you please render an opinion on the following situation. Thank you.

The JSD Public Policy Coordinator, Maria (Cristina) Molina, has been invited by Crowe Horwath to present jointly with their consultant Melinda Haag at the *2011 National Symposium on Juvenile Justice* that is to take place on October in Indianapolis, IN. Crowe Horwath has offered to pay for travel expenses related to this event. As the JSD information system (Quest) administrator, her participation in this conference would benefit the County by highlighting the best practices and efficiencies of the Juvenile Services Department.

The JSD's relationship with Crowe Horwath is that they served as the consultant to the Department during implementation of the Quest Case Management System under EPP-611. The contractual relationship with Crowe Horwath is no longer ongoing and Ms. Molina is not on any procurement team. Proposals for this symposium are soon due and we would like to notify Crowe Horwath if we can commit to this participation. Please advise on how we can proceed ethically with such travel arrangements.

Gladys Negron-Soto, Psy.D., Manager, JSD Public Policy Research and Justice Assistance/
Executive Assistant to the Director
Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department
Office of the Director
275 NW 2nd Street Second Floor Miami, Florida 33128

2/23/2011