

Case Number K05-120

Visions of Victory Human Services Corp.

Re: A possible conflict of interest

The COE received the following information:

Vision of Victory Human Services Corporation a Non for Profit has submitted a proposal in response to a Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department RFP for the funding of a program. Their proposal is one of three submitted. The proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee appointed by the Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department.

Two members of the Board of Directors of the Non for Profit Board are Miami-Dade County employees. Dr. Mae Bryant, the Executive Vice President of the Non for Profit Board is the interim Director of the Department of Human Services. Mr. Anthony Dawsey, the Treasurer of the Non for Profit Board, is the Assistant Director of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Department.

Mr. Dawsey signed the funding application as the Corporate Treasurer of the Non for Profit Board.

The Juvenile Services Department falls under the direction of Department of Human Services. If the Visions of Victory Human Services Corporation receives funding for the program, the funding will be approved by the Department of Human Services. Likewise, if the Visions of Victory Human Services Corporation receives funding for the program, monitoring for the program will be the responsibility of the Department of Human Services. A situation may occur where there is a conflict between Dr. Bryant's activities as a Board Member and her duties as the Director of Human Services. Dr. Bryant has a fiduciary responsibility to both entities.

The Ethics Commission has said that County employees can sit on Non for Profit Boards. County employees cannot benefit from their involvement with a Non for Profit Board. They cannot be involved in the administration of the County funds that come to a Non for Profit Board. They cannot lobby the Board of County Commissioners or County Staff on behalf of a Non for Profit Board.

Mr. Dawsey as the Treasurer of the Non for Profit Board can sign the application, if the signature was ministerial.

Dr. Bryant was contacted and advised that the EOC had a concern with potential conflicts arising from her seat on the Non for Profit Board. COE investigators recommended that she request a legal opinion.

Dr. Bryant submitted a request for an opinion.

Dr. Bryant advised that she would contact Mr. Dawsey and recommend that he also request an opinion.

MD/mwd

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Name & Signature:	Manuel W. Diaz, Investigator	Date: Item #:
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