

Meyers, Robert (COE)

JNG 09-11

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 3:23 PM
To: Raymond, David (HT)
Subject: RE: Question

David:

Thanks for the clarification. It doesn't change my opinion. The fact that her duties with the Children's Trust require her to work with one of firms bidding for the Homeless Trust public relations contract does not create a conflict for her. Granted, she would have some familiarity with this bidder's work (which is probably a good thing), but she does not stand to reap any benefit if the contract is awarded to this particular firm. Therefore, she can sit on the county selection committee charged with selecting a firm to provide public relations services to the Homeless Trust.

I hope I got the facts straight this time. Contact me if you wish to discuss.

Robert

From: Raymond, David (HT)
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2009 12:00 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Re: Question

Thanks Robert. One point of clarification the Children's Trust staff member is not a Homeless Trust Board member, rather a member of a county selection committee appointed by the county manager charged with making a decision on which public relations firm to select to provide services to the Homeless Trust. Further the Children's Trust representative, who was chosen for her public relations expertise, works directly with (not for) one of the firms bidding in her role at the Children's Trust.

Does that change anything in the opinion provided below?

Thank you, as always.

Regards,
David

David Raymond, Executive Director
Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust
111 NW 1st Street, 27th floor
Miami, FL 33128

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From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
To: Raymond, David (HT)
Sent: Thu Jan 22 10:54:35 2009
Subject: RE: Question

1/22/2009

Hi David:

Thank you for your question and listed below is my response. As I understand it, one of the members of the Homeless Trust is employed by the Children's Trust and one of the applicants to provide Public Relations services to your department currently has a contract with the Children's Trust. In order for your board member to have a conflict of interest, the member must have a special relationship with a party or entity coming before the board and must be directly affected by the board's action.

There is no conflict for your board member who works for the Children's Trust to participate in and vote on any action items involved with procuring public relations services for the Homeless Trust. The mere fact that one of the applicants also has a contract with the Children's Trust does not operate to disqualify the Children's Trust representative. As far as I can tell, the board member does not stand to be directly affected by the decision of the Homeless Trust to award public relations work to this bidder or any other party.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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

From: Raymond, David (HT)
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 10:39 AM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Question

Hi Robert,

& Happy New Year.

I have a quick question for you, please.

The Homeless Trust is involved in the procurement of Public Relations services for our department. One member of a selection committee appointed by the County Manager, works for the Children's Trust. She was selected due to her expertise in this field. One of the applicants for the Homeless Trust Public Relations services is a firm which currently has a contract for similar services with the Children's Trust. (This was disclosed by the Children's Trust representative as well as the applicant in their application.) Another member of the selection committee has asked whether it presents a conflict of interest to have the Children's Trust representative serving on our Committee.

Can you please advise.

Thank you,
David

David Raymond, Executive Director
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1/22/2009