

## Conflict of Interest Statement

039 Community Review Board

April 7, 2025

As some of you may be aware, on March 26<sup>th</sup> OHA received a letter from an individual expressing concerns that two community review board members may have a conflict of interest under Oregon law. The claim was also shared with local media.

- The CRB members mentioned in this letter reached out to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) to obtain an opinion as to whether there is a potential or actual conflict of interest under Oregon Government Ethics Law.
- OGEC provided their opinion on Friday (April 4<sup>th</sup>). In summary:
  - Jerry Dalnes **may** have a **potential** conflict of interest, **if** the CRB recommendation on the proposed transaction **could** have a financial impact on his employer.
  - Joanna Motts **does not** have either a potential or actual conflict of interest.
- Under Oregon law, when a potential conflict of interest exists, public officials (like CRB members) must properly disclose this information by making a public announcement describing the nature of the potential conflict before taking action like voting. CRB members must also provide a written notice outlining this potential conflict.

OHA required all potential members of this community review board to provide conflict of interest disclosure forms as part of the CRB application process. This was above and beyond requirements in state law and something OHA did to ensure due diligence and neutrality in reviewing the proposed transaction.

What does this mean for us today?

- As you know, the CRB did not take any official action at the meeting last week
- Today, CRB will vote on its recommendation to OHA
- In response to the concerns raised:
  - Joanna Motts, while having no actual or potential conflict of interest, has decided to resign from the CRB.
  - Jerry Dalnes has voluntarily resigned from the CRB based on his potential, not actual, conflict of interest.

A claim was also made about our facilitator, Ronda Zakocs, having a potential conflict of interest in this transaction.

- Ronda did not work for OHSU or Legacy. She did provide consultation for the Gun Violence Prevention Research Center at the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health last year and received a one-time honorarium award. Ronda's engagement with OHSU-PSU School of Public Health had concluded before OHA began working with Ronda.

- Ronda disclosed this information to OHA as part of the contracting process and OHA consulted with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission about a potential conflict of interest.
- OHA contracted with Ronda's firm, Insight for Action, LLC, to facilitate CRB meetings, not to make a decision or recommendation, nor to take any action regarding proposed transactions.
- Ronda has neither a potential nor an actual conflict of interest.

The Oregon legislature created the HCMO program to address the potential negative impacts of health care consolidation. One of the primary goals of this program is to shine a light on the impacts of health care consolidation, where transparency did not exist before.

Community engagement and public input is critical to the HCMO process to help OHA understand potential impacts of a proposed transaction on the cost of health care, quality, access to services, and health equity. These elements – transparency, community feedback and accountability are at the heart of what we work toward every day. OHA has been receiving up to 100 public comments a day for this proposed transaction and strives to post all public comments as soon as possible after processing.

OHA took the claims presented seriously and all parties took immediate action to address them. OHA went above and beyond state requirements for public officials to understand any potential ties CRB members may have to the transaction and to ensure a fair and balanced discussion. In the end, the claims presented did not meet the bar for an actual conflict of interest.

We thank all the CRB members for their service and look forward to receiving a CRB recommendation later this month.

**Please contact me if you have any questions about this.**

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