
IN THE MATTER OF : **STATE ETHICS COMMISSION**
ANGELA VUOTTO, :
PSYCHIATRIST, :
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES : **Commission Case No. 35-15**
: **DECISION**

BACKGROUND

Dr. Vuotto seeks Commission approval under section 19 of the Conflicts of Interest Law (“Conflicts Law”) for an exception permitting her to enter into a contract with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (“Rutgers”), University Behavioral Health Center (“UBHC”), to provide forensic services and psychiatric treatment for Department of Corrections (“DOC”) inmates on an as-needed basis.

Section 19(a) of the Conflict Law prohibits a State employee from entering into a contract valued at \$25.00 or more with any State agency except as provided in section 19(b). Pursuant to section 19(b) of the Conflicts Law, the State Ethics Commission is authorized to grant an exception to the prohibition in section 19(a) when the contract meets certain exceptions, including contracts that are awarded pursuant to public notice and competitive bidding.

APPLICATION

According to the information provided, Vuotto is employed full-time by the Department of Human Services, (“DHS”) as a forensic psychiatrist at the Ann Klein Forensic Center. She seeks to enter into a contract with UBHC to provide forensic services and psychiatric treatment for DOC inmates on an as-needed basis. Vuotto will be paid the standardized rate that UBHC pays per diem psychiatrists.

This Commission has routinely authorized State employees to contract with the State as long as the contract is issued after public notice and competitive bidding and the contract is not with the State agency that employs them. The position sought by Vuotto was publicly posted by UBHC so that any interested and qualified persons could apply. The decision to hire Vuotto was made by the UBHC Director of Psychiatry based on her qualifications for the job and there is no indication that Vuotto received any undue favorable consideration by UBHC based on her State position with DHS.

DECISION

The Commission grants Vuotto an exception pursuant to section 19(b) of the Conflicts Law permitting her to enter into a contract with UBHC to provide forensic services and psychiatric treatment for Department of Corrections (“DOC”) inmates on an as-needed basis.

DECISION RENDERED BY THE
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION ON
THE 21st DAY OF JULY, 2015