

H-24-438 Activity Log

10/17/2024

Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.

10/09/2024

We spoke with Amy Harris, Director of Federal and Fiscal Policy & Grants Management, who noted that OSPI has investigated the conflict of interest further. There have been some steps taken to ensure that the contract is being ran without a conflict of interest. The original contract (uploaded today) has been amended (see uploaded RFQ) to add language about a conflict of interest, and adds that OSPI must be notified immediately of any conflict of interest. If cases associated with the Marysville school district as assigned to Education Resolutions, Ms. Rushing will not be involved in any manner. --ethan950

10/03/2024

Citizen emailed on 10/3 to ask questions about a fraud form. See attachment. --ethan950

10/02/2024

Citizen emailed again on 10/2/2024 to add additional information regarding the hotline submission. --ethan950

10/02/2024

Carol Gross, myself, and Amy Harris at OSPI had a Teams meeting from 11-11:10 AM to communicate that there is a hotline submission with conflict of interest concerns for OSPI & the Marysville school district. Amy was made aware of the contractor in question, Education Resolutions and her owner Claudette Rushing. Amy was informed of the conflict of interest. --ethan950

10/02/2024

Citizen emailed on 10/2/2024 with an additional question about information investigators would need, as well as additional information regarding OSPI Contracts, CR, & Education Resolutions. --ethan950

10/01/2024

Attached an email received from the citizen with relevant context for concern about misuse of public funding specific to OSPI's contract with Education Resolutions from 6/2023 - 9/30/2024. Page 33 of the template notes minimum requirements are: "Awarded Vendor is not employed by a LEA or employees by a LEA at any point during the contract period." --ethan950

10/01/2024

Added the citizen's response to the supporting documents. This email contains requests to audit OSPI earlier than the scheduled engagement in 2026, and additional information around her fraud concerns. --ethan950

10/01/2024

Email response has been sent to the citizen, informing her that we are unable to modify the timing of the next audit. The citizen was also informed of times I am available for

a call during the week of 9/30 for a discussion of what the citizen has interpreted the fraud to be. --ethan950

10/01/2024

Citizen responded to emails sent on 10/1, and noted that she was free for a call at 12 PM on 10/1/2024. I responded and notified her that I will call her at 12. Email attachment has been uploaded. --ethan950

10/01/2024

Emailed citizen on 10/1 informing them this will be addressed in the next accountability audit, and I requested that the citizen provide me with the referenced public records in the hotline submission. --ethan950

10/01/2024

I called the citizen on 10/1/2024 from 12-12:35 PM. The citizen passionately expressed frustration with the contract between OSPI and Education Resolutions contract, and that there is a conflict of interest. Here is a summary of the call in short narrative form: OSPI entered into contract work with Education Resolutions, a firm run by Claudette Rushing (henceforth, Ms. Rushing) in 2018 or 2019. Education Resolutions investigates complaints and reports filed against various agencies and receives these complaints from OSPI. The Marysville School District is one of these agencies. In June of 2023, Ms. Rushing signed a job offer to be an attorney for the Marysville School District. The primary concern this citizen had is that Ms. Rushing's position puts her as a conflict of interest as her firm is still the one handling the majority of the complaints and reports filed against the school district. In the signed contract, there is a statement that no school district employees may be part of these investigations, and this appears to be in violation of the contract. --ethan950

10/01/2024

The concerned citizen has submitted various documents for our examination and retention pertinent to the hotline submission request. See "Supporting Documents" for these emails and attachments. --ethan950

09/27/2024

Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.

09/27/2024

Task assigned to 'grossc@sao.wa.gov'. Team notification email sent to: grossc@sao.wa.gov,ethan950@sao.wa.gov

09/27/2024

Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'. Action changed from (not set) to Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit.