



Eric Holcomb, Governor
State of Indiana

Office of General Counsel
402 W. WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM W451, MS27
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204-2744

INDIANA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

NOV 03 2017

FILED

November 3, 2017

James Clevenger, Chair
Indiana State Ethics Commission
315 W. Ohio Street, Room 104
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

RE: Waiver of Application of 42 IAC 1-5-1 ("Gift Rule") for Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Aging Employees Victoria Sovern and Sherry Beck

Dear Mr. Clevenger:

Under the authority designated to me by Indiana Family & Social Services Administration ("FSSA") appointing authority Jennifer Walthall, MD, MPH to waive application of the Gift Rule in individual cases when consistent with the public interest, I waive application of the Gift Rule for Victoria Sovern and Sherry Beck so they may attend the 2017 WINGS Retreat sponsored by the Supreme Court-Adult Guardianship Office, WINGS Indiana Adult Guardianship State Task Force, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging ("IAAAA") and Indiana Professional Management Group ("IPMG") November 8 - 9, 2017 in Indianapolis, IN and accept free materials and meals.

The WINGS Indiana Adult Guardianship State Task Force is a voluntary workgroup focused on the improvement of adult guardianship services across the state. FSSA does not have a business relationship with the task force. IMPG is a case management company that provides services to individuals participating the Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Program administered by FSSA. FSSA has a direct business relationship with IMPG and with the 15 Area Agencies on Aging ("AAA") that comprise IAAAA. The AAAs have grants and contracts with FSSA to deliver services to older adults and individuals with disabilities. Since FSSA has business relationships with IMPG and the AAAs that comprise IAAAA, FSSA considers the gift rule to be applicable

The items of value to be received are materials and three meals, two lunches and a dinner. Attached is a copy of the announcement flyer and agenda.

The main goal of the retreat is to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the needs of individuals that require the protection and support of guardianship or other less restrictive



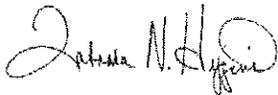
Mr. James Clevenger
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alternative support services. This is the same population the FSSA Division of Aging, Adult Protective Services is responsible for serving. It is in the best interest of the public that as Ms. Sovern as State Director of Adult Protective Services and Ms. Beck as Assistant Director of Adult Protective Services attend to represent the agency's position.

Therefore, I am granting the waiver sought by Mses. Sovern and Beck because it is consistent with the public interest for Mses. Sovern and Beck to attend this free retreat and accept materials and meals so that she may learn from other attendees and contribute to the discussion of how to improve the quality of and access to adult guardianship services for individuals receiving services from FSSA.

If you need additional information or have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (317) 232-0246 or at Latosha.Higgins@fssa.in.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Latosha N. Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Latosha N. Higgins
Interim Managing Attorney and Ethics Officer

Enclosures

WINGS / INDIANA ADULT GUARDIANSHIP STATE TASK FORCE

2017 STAKEHOLDERS STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

“Review, Refresh, REnew”

November 8th – 9th

Eagle's Hide-A-Way Retreat Center / Eagle Creek Park
8901 West 65th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

BRIEF AGENDA

Wednesday, November 8th

- 12:00 PM Opening Session & Lunch
- 12:30 PM General Session – State Presentations
▶ Indiana Adult Guardianship Issues & Concerns Update
- 1:45 PM Break
- 2:00 PM General Sessions – National Presentations
▶ National Adult Guardianship Issues & Concerns Update
- 3:15 PM Break
- 3:30 PM Breakout Sessions - Focus Groups Meet
▶ Participants will break out into select Focus Groups to:
▶ Examine and refine action plans for current priority initiatives
▶ Review and design action plans for future priority initiatives
- 5:00 PM Break
- 5:15 PM Dinner – Updates & Discussion
▶ Focus Groups Updates and Discussion
- 6:00 PM Adjourn

Tuesday, November 9th

- 8:30 AM Breakfast & Announcements
- 9:00 AM Breakout Sessions - Focus Groups Meet
- 10:30 AM General Session – Focus Groups Report
▶ Focus Groups Reports, Discussion & Recommendations for Action Priorities
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Adjourn

You are invited to...

Put on your jeans and boots and grab your flannel shirts because the WINGS/Indiana Adult Guardianship State Task Force is headed to the woods of the Eagle's Hide-A-Way Retreat in Indianapolis to. . .

REview, REfresh, RENew. . . at the 2017 Indiana Adult Guardianship Stakeholders Strategic Planning RETreat

Plan to join this statewide group of Indiana public, private and individual stakeholders and advocates as we convene to **REview, REfresh, RENew** our commitment to work as a collective force to improve the quality and increase the availability and provision of adult guardianship services across our state.

Anyone with an interest in adult guardianship or other less restrictive alternative decision-making support issues is welcome to attend.



**Wednesday, November 8th
&
Thursday, November 9th**

**Eagle's Hide-A-Way Retreat
Center / Eagle Creek Park
8901 West 65th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46278**

No Registration Fee

**Registration is limited to
50 participants**

**Questions
317-652-5804
iagsproject@yahoo.com**

You can register at: <https://wings-iagstf-retreat.eventbrite.com>

Croft, Celeste

From: Higgins, Latosha
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2017 12:36 PM
To: IG Info
Subject: Sovern - Beck- Gift Waiver 11-2-17
Attachments: Sovern - Beck- Gift Waiver 11-2-17.pdf

Attached please find the executed Gift Rule waiver for Victoria Sovern and Sherry Beck allowing them to attend the free 2017 WINGS Retreat in Indianapolis, IN. Please file this waiver with your office and return a file stamped copy to me.

Latosha N. Higgins
Interim Managing Attorney and Ethics Officer
Office of General Counsel
Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
402 West Washington Street, Room W451
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-0246
Latosha.Higgins@fssa.in.gov
<http://www.IN.gov/fssa>
Follow us on Twitter: @FSSAIndiana

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