



Code of Ethics (VOTE)

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Background



- Health Connector Board of Directors and staff members are all subject to the Commonwealth’s comprehensive conflict of interest statute, which includes:
 - Rules on avoiding and disclosing conflicts of interest
 - Requirements for regular training and review of ethics law principles
 - For certain staff members and Board members, annual disclosures of financial interests
- Federal regulations governing health insurance Exchanges like the Health Connector must “have in place and make publicly available a set of guiding governance principles” that include ethics, conflict of interest and disclosure of financial interest. 45 C.F.R. 155.110(d)

Overview of Proposed Code



- The proposed code is intended to enunciate the high ethical standards by which Health Connector Board and staff members have always conducted business
- The proposed code does not replace or contradict the state ethics law, but supplements and reinforces it
- Board and staff members will continue to be educated regularly on the state ethics law and are encouraged to seek advice from the Ethics Commission and/or Health Connector legal counsel whenever they have questions
- The governing principles of the ethics code are :
 - Duty of loyalty to Commonwealth and Health Connector
 - Perform responsibilities with integrity and transparency
 - Avoid conflicts of interest or improper use of official positions

Summary of Selected Substantive Provisions



- Prohibition on bribes or gifts of substantial value given on account of official position or action
- Prohibition on participation in a particular matter in which the Board or staff member (or someone in that member's immediate family, the member's business or the member's present or prospective employer) has a financial interest
- Prohibition on contracts with the Health Connector
- Avoidance of appearance of conflict of interest
- Restrictions on outside employment
- Restrictions on employment after leaving public service

This summary is not comprehensive. The Code contains additional restrictions and details which should be consulted.

Disclosure

- Existing disclosure requirements under the state ethics law remain in place, including:
 - Written public disclosure of conflicts of interest or appearances of such conflicts
 - Annual disclosure of financial interest for certain Board and staff members
- We are adding annual disclosures for all Board members to the code, requiring them to disclose existing conflicts or stating affirmatively that there are no personal or financial interests that constitute a conflict

VOTE



Move that the Board adopt the Code of Ethics as proposed.