

Exhibit H



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April 30, 2012

Jason Giffen, Director  
Housing & Economic Development  
San Luis Obispo County Planning and Bldg.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Giffen,

I am writing this letter due to my concern regarding the evaluation process for the most recent ESG application. I recognize and applaud County staff's efforts – Morgan Torell and Tony Navarro have done an excellent job under tight deadlines. However, I have many concerns regarding the decision-making process as well as statements made in the proposal that was awarded funding.

In March, HSOC, as the Homeless Services Advisory Board to the Board of Supervisors, agreed to have a subcommittee make the final recommendation to the Planning Department since there would be no HSOC meeting in April. Volunteers were solicited from the full HSOC, and three members volunteered. It was made clear that no one with a vested interest or direct connection with any of the proposals should volunteer. However, one of the reviewers is currently on the Board of ECHO – one of the “lead partners” as stated in the proposal. We feel this to be a clear conflict of interest and this reviewer should not have been allowed to participate in the evaluation process. While the three individuals volunteered to participate at the HSOC meeting, without knowing which agencies submitted proposals no member could have known that a conflict existed.

Because of the short timeframe involved, the subcommittee's recommendation did not go to the full HSOC where this conflict of interest could have been discussed and resolved – and I believe this to have been a critical mistake in the process. I understand that there wasn't a regularly scheduled meeting prior to the submission deadline. In retrospect this is a flaw that needs to be remedied in the future – a meeting of the Executive Committee perhaps.

• Adult Day Services • Child Care Resource Connection • Emergency Services • Energy Conservation • Family Support Services •  
• Head Start Programs • Health Services • Homeless Services • Martha's Place • State Child Development Programs • Weatherization Services •



Exhibit H

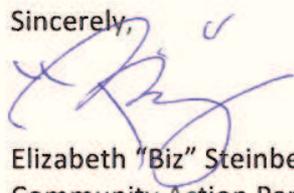
The organization recommended for funding has no prior experience with ESG, HMIS or HPRP.

The proposal states that “It should be noted that the Homeless Services Director for CAPSLO is part of this collaborative, and will play an essential role in aligning services.” Dee Torres, the Director of Homeless Services was never approached regarding this application and the Link’s intention to include her as playing an essential role.

I am not asking that the recommendation of the Committee necessarily be overturned; however I request that there be a thorough review of the decision-making process in the future. At the very least there should be no individuals involved in the process who might have a conflict of interest in participating. Additionally I would request that the HSOC – or the Executive Committee should time not allow for the full group – review final recommendations prior to submission.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 544-4355.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth “Biz” Steinberg, CEO  
Community Action Partnership, San Luis Obispo County

Cc:

Dana Lilley  
Morgan Torell  
Tony Navarro