

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of
Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to enter into an agreement with Honey Locust
Productions, LLC (University of Michigan Employee, Michael Rubyan, Partner).

Background:

The University of Michigan School of Nursing Department of Systems, Populations and Leadership seeks approval to enter into an agreement with Honey Locust Productions, LLC to develop, implement, and pilot an interactive web-based product to support improved patient-clinician communication, promoting behavioral change and guideline adherence.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Michael Rubyan is a University employee as Clinical Assistant Professor with the Department of Health Management and Policy and would be party to the contract as partner of Honey Locust Productions, LLC.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
 - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
 - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
 - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its School of Nursing Department of Systems, Populations and Leadership and Honey Locust Productions, LLC.
- ii) The agreement is for a duration of one year at a total cost not to exceed \$75,000. Honey Locust Productions, LLC will be supplying all the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical to those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Michael Rubyan, is partner of Honey Locust Productions, LLC.

Michael Rubyan has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Michael Rubyan, under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and Honey Locust Productions, LLC subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Michael Rubyan or the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

February 2022