

**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 a contract with Growing Forward Together (University Employees Mickey Sperlich and Julia Seng are members of the Board of Directors and/or employees).

Background:

The University of Michigan (“University”) through its Michigan Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology department seeks approval to enter into a contract with Growing Forward Together for the purpose of research activities.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute because Mickey Sperlich, Adjunct Clinical Instructor in Nursing, and Julia Seng, Professor of Nursing, are employees of the University and are members of the Board of Directors and/or employees of Growing Forward Together.

The Statute allows the University to enter into such contracts 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 contract, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The contract 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 contract, 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 contract.
 - 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 Growing Forward Together.
- ii) The contract is for Growing Forward Together to provide sponsored research collaboration services under a sponsored project from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services titled "Regional Perinatal Care System". The performance period is anticipated to be February 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, and is estimated not to exceed \$30,000. The terms of the contract will comply with appropriate University requirements. Since projects are often amended, the contract will include provisions for changes in time, amount, and scope.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University employees Mickey Sperlich and Julia Seng, are employees of the University and are members of the Board of Directors and/or employees of Growing Forward Together.

Mickey Sperlich and Julia Seng have met state law requirements with the disclosure of their pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisors of Mickey Sperlich and Julia Seng or UMOR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the University enter into a contract with Growing Forward Together, subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisors of Mickey Sperlich and Julia Seng or UMOR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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