



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc

Commissioner

January 10, 2022

Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street, 8th Floor
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+ 1 347 396 4100 tel

Mr. Ethan Carrier
General Counsel
New York City Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 10007

Re: Consulting Back Arrangement with Jaimie Shaff

Dear Mr. Carrier,

In accordance with Conflicts of Interest Board Rule 1-07(d)(1), I write to inform you that I have approved of the retention of former Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”) employee, Jaimie Shaff, as a consultant.

Ms. Shaff resigned from her position as an Implementation and Evaluation Specialist for the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families on August 1, 2021. She resigned from this position because she moved to another state and no longer meets the residency requirements of City service. She is not currently employed and has been volunteering with DOHMH to complete manuscripts with which she was involved prior to her resignation. Ms. Shaff is not compensated for this volunteer work.

Beginning in February 2020, Ms. Shaff served as the Chief Data Scientist for DOHMH’s COVID-19 emergency response. In that role, she oversaw DOHMH’s Integrated Data Team’s (“IDT”) Emergency Response Group (“ERG”), which involved extensive coordination and communication with DOHMH partners across the City to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The IDT, under Ms. Shaff’s leadership, reported to DOHMH’s COVID-19 Incident Command System leadership, reviewing data analytics and case reports to forecast COVID-19 trends, what resources should be expanded, and served as crucial driver of policies and decisions surrounding DOHMH’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, much of Ms. Shaff’s work involved responding to health inequities in NYC exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, she designed, refined, and analyzed data to observe trends relating which demographic groups were getting ill, hospitalized, and dying, as well as which groups were getting vaccinated against COVID-19. Ms. Shaff’s analysis allowed DOHMH leadership to understand what inequities existed in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and develop strategies to address these inequities. Prior to the pandemic, Ms. Shaff worked

in the Mental Hygiene Division's Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families as an implementation and evaluation specialist. In that role, she worked on developing grant proposals, analyzed data from population surveys within the Bureau, and performed qualitative evaluations of the Bureau's parenting programs. She also worked on the development of a built environment program for domestic violence shelters, which incorporates architectural and design changes to physical spaces in order to positively impact health. Upon resignation, Ms. Shaff earned approximately \$112,487 annually.

Ms. Shaff's services are urgently needed to assist DOHMH's Incident Command System with resurgence planning and structuring for data management in future emergency responses. Ms. Shaff had an integral role in building the IDT in DOHMH's pandemic response, and she facilitated the expansion of the IDT team to six units with over seventy-five staff members. DOHMH would use Ms. Shaff's expertise to support forward-planning efforts, to enable more sustainable operations and recovery planning in the future, and to assist with transitioning the COVID-19 response activities to a permanent data leadership team. Her institutional knowledge from the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing inequities in healthcare will be invaluable assets to the City in preparing for future emergencies. It would be of great detriment to DOHMH and the City if Ms. Shaff were not allowed to contribute her knowledge, feedback and insight to DOHMH leadership as the ERG transitions from emergency response to recovery and preparedness for future emergencies.

DOHMH proposes procuring Ms. Shaff's services beginning immediately for up to one year from her resignation, compensating her at \$100 per hour for up to 200 hours. DOHMH would contract directly with Ms. Shaff. Ms. Shaff would not receive City benefits and would be taxed as self-employed. Ms. Shaff will communicate and interact with DOHMH staff, particularly the Deputy Commissioner of DOHMH's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Executive Director of Healthcare and Community Readiness, and the IDT team.

I support this consulting back arrangement as described above and the proposed compensation of \$100 per hour, with former employee Jamie Shaff to work for DOHMH.

Sincerely,



Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

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cc: Karrie Ann Sheridan

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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD
Commissioner

March 16, 2022

Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street, 8th Floor
Queens, NY 11101-4132

+ 1 347 396 4111 tel

Mr. Ethan Carrier
General Counsel
New York City Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 1007

Re: Consulting Back Arrangement with Priyanka Ganesh

Dear Mr. Carrier,

In accordance with Conflicts of Interest Board Rule 1-07(d)(1), I write to inform you that I have approved of the retention of former Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”) employee, Priyanka Ganesh, as a consultant for the Division of Family and Child Health (“FCH”).

Ms. Ganesh previously served as the Director of Data and Case Management for the Bureau of School Health’s Oral Health Program, within FCH. Her civil service title was City Research Scientist. She was separated from the position in May 2021 when her visa expired, which has since been renewed. Prior to her separation, Ms. Ganesh earned approximately \$42 per hour.

As Director of Data and Case Management, Ms. Ganesh was responsible for developing and maintaining a case management database relating to school-based dental care. Ms. Ganesh managed this database, a robust data repository with efficient data extraction and reporting capabilities, in order to advise the Bureau’s leadership on case management initiatives. She would utilize the repository to conduct data analysis to prepare reports, for policy recommendations, grant proposals, and presentations to DOHMH leadership. Ms. Ganesh was also working to expand data capabilities with the goal of synthesizing data from additional sources such as the Automated School Health Report system and the NYS Department of Health data portal. This data coordination work is crucial in order to improve oral health outcomes for NYC children, and direct care for children in urgent need of oral healthcare services.

Ms. Ganesh’s services are urgently needed to continue work she began when employed by DOHMH and support the Oral Health Program data management team while they backfill her position. Based on the lengthy nature of past recruiting experiences, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, filling

the position may take several months and new personnel will need training once hired. Ms. Ganesh has the necessary skills to perform this work effectively without training.

DOHMH will procure Ms. Ganesh's services immediately through approximately June 30, 2022, to complete work and provide support to the data and case management team. Ms. Ganesh will be paid an hourly rate of \$48, for up to 168 hours. DOHMH would contract directly with Ms. Ganesh and these funds would not be paid by a third party. Ms. Ganesh would not receive City benefits and would be taxed as self-employed. Ms. Ganesh will have to communicate and interact with DOHMH daily in order to complete this work.

I support this consulting back arrangement as described above and the proposed compensation of \$48 per hour, with former employee Priyanka Ganesh to work for the Office Division of Family and Child Health.

Sincerely,



Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD,
Commissioner

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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Ashwin Vasana, MD, PhD
Commissioner

June 12, 2022

**Gotham Center
42-09 28th Street, 8th Floor
Queens, NY 11101-4132**

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Ethan Carrier, Esq.
General Counsel
New York City Conflicts of Interest Board
2 Lafayette Street, Suite 1010
New York, NY 10007

Re: Consulting Back Arrangement with Karla Granado, MPH

Dear Mr. Carrier:

Pursuant to Conflicts of Interest Board Rule 1-07(d)(1), I write to disclose that I approve of Karla Granado, former employee of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”) consulting back for DOHMH.

Ms. Granado joined DOHMH in February 2016 as the Hypertension Initiative Director for the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention. Ms. Granado resigned on October 22, 2021. She resigned from this position because she moved to another state and no longer meets the residency requirements of City service and will now telework. Her salary was approximately \$105, 289.

In her role, Ms. Granado co-founded and led Take the Pressure Off, NYC! (“TPO”), a citywide hypertension initiative. She also led a coalition of over 150 members across different sectors including healthcare, business, community, and government. Ms. Granado drove TPO’s vision by assessing progress towards program goals, ensuring evidence-based activities, and redirecting priorities and resources as needed. She directly supervised four staff members.

Ms. Granado is an expert on hypertension and presents informational trainings for coalition organizations and various departments across DOHMH. As the co-founder of TPO, she has historical knowledge of the program’s projects and fostered many long-standing relationships with partners. Ms. Granado uses her extensive knowledge about partners’ specific interests to cultivate effective collaboration between TPO and other entities.

Ms. Granado's services are urgently needed as TPO is currently understaffed. Three of the five staff positions are vacant. One of the current staff members is new to the TPO team and does not have expertise in hypertension. The current staff and program will benefit from Ms. Granado's experience in developing TPO and existing relationships with partners and organizations.

As TPO continues its efforts to address these health concerns, Ms. Granado's extensive knowledge of hypertension and program history is necessary to support TPO until it is fully staffed. While consulting back, Ms. Granado will support the staff in fostering relationships with partners and organizations and continuing to support the program's evidence-based model.

After approximately one year, TPO anticipates that all staff will be well-oriented to the program's history, equipped to maintain existing relationships, and prepared to effectively execute TPO's goals. Therefore, Ms. Granado's consulting back period likely will last one year. She will work approximately 10 hours weekly, depending on TPO's need.

I support this consulting back arrangement as described above and the proposed compensation of \$75 per hour, with former employee Karla Granado to work for TPO, and believe that the consulting arrangement will benefit the City.

Sincerely,



Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD
Commissioner

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cc: Karrie Ann Sheridan