



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Oxiris Barbot, MD

Commissioner

January 30, 2020

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

Re: 1-13(e) Designation for Scott Bloom to the Board of Mental Health Technology Transfer Center

Dear Mr. Carrier:

This letter serves to notify the Conflicts of Interest Board (“COIB”) that, in accordance with COIB Rule 1-13(e), I hereby designate Scott Bloom, in his official capacity as Director of School Mental Health Services at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”), to serve as a member of the advisory board of the National Hispanic and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (“MHTTC”). MHTTC is focused on disseminating and implementing evidence-based practices for mental health disorders; raising awareness, knowledge, and skills of the workforce that address the needs of individuals living with mental illness. MHTTC fosters regional and national alliances among culturally diverse practitioners, researchers, policy makers, families, and consumers of mental health services; ensuring the availability and delivery of free, publicly available training and technical assistance to the mental health field.


The Office of School Health is focused on fostering the academic potential of children by improving their health, ensuring that school children have access to and receive ongoing medical care, and advocating for the health and well-being of children and adolescents of New York City. As the Director of School Mental Health Services, Mr. Bloom oversees the school mental health program for the NYC Department of Education facilities; he facilitates partnerships with non-profit organizations in schools; implements projects and mental health initiatives in over 1,800 schools to support the needs of 1.2 million students and families. Mr. Bloom also facilitated the expansion of Thrive NYC in City schools by increasing access to mental health services, promoting consultation, treatment, and support to NYC children and families.

There is a clear nexus between Mr. Bloom’s work as the Director of School Mental Health Services and service on the advisory board of MHTTC. As a board member representing school mental health initiatives, Mr. Bloom has facilitated a Webinar on clinical working in schools with Hispanic populations, which was streamed across the country; he is working with Adolescent Health to

bring their trainings to New York City this year; and he has participated in providing input and recommendations on current school-based trends to the MHTTC's annual plans for implementing their resources relating to school mental health. On the board, he is able to share lessons learned about the NYC school mental health programs, and the challenges and success of implementing mental health services in schools. Mr. Bloom was recruited directly for the board of MHTTC due to his expertise and knowledge in delivering and implementing mental health services in schools for over twenty years. As a representative for DOHMH and the Department of Education, serving on the board provides the opportunity to be a key advocate in promoting the expansion of mental health in schools on a national level and enhances the existing protocols and procedures for running effective mental health services in NYC schools. The position allows Mr. Bloom to learn more about state-of-the-art approaches to promoting mental health in schools and acquire knowledge and skills to improve systems of care.

I have been advised that Mr. Bloom does not anticipate or foresee any conflicts between his day-to-day responsibilities at DOHMH and involvement with the MHTTC board. I support Mr. Bloom serving in this role, subject to any required stipulations and/or recusals on his part. I also request that Mr. Bloom be allowed the reasonable and incidental use of City time, equipment, supplies, and resources for his participation with MHTTC as part of his City duties.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important matter. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call Kate Townley, Assistant General Counsel of the Employment Law Unit at (347) 396-6045.

Sincerely,

Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

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coiwaiverc.sb

cc: Kate Townley