

2017 Lobbyist Registration Audit of Jen Lacey

FINDING(S)

Jen Lacey failed to timely register for four of her employers (See Registrations section).

EMPLOYER(S)

- Aramark Sports & Entertainment, LLC
- City of Germantown
- Community Veterinary Clinics, LLC
- Heartland Solutions Group
- Home Builders Association of TN
- Lincoln Memorial University
- Meramec Specialty Company
- Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare
- National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
- Next Generation Underwriters
- Psalms
- QSource
- Regional One Health
- Science Alliance of TN
- Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery

REGISTRATION(S)

Ms. Lacey works for a firm which contracts to provide lobbying services for several clients. Ms. Lacey registered as a lobbyist for fifteen employers during 2017. Based on the audit documentation, Ms. Lacey timely registered her lobbying relationship with eleven employers. The remaining four relationships appear to have been registered late. The details of these registrations are in the subsequent paragraphs.

Aramark Sports & Entertainment, LLC

The firm contracted with Aramark Sports & Entertainment, LLC to provide lobbying services. The contract for 2017 established a lobbying relationship on January 1, 2017, which would require registration by at least one member of the firm by January 8, 2017. Ms. Lacey was also a registered lobbyist for the client in 2016. In 2017, the firm registered two lobbyists for the client, Ms. Lacey on February 15, 2017, and another lobbyist from the firm on February 3, 2017. Both lobbyists were registered by the client on February 7, 2017.

Ms. Lacey provided a statement with the contract to explain the registration being later than that of a continuing lobbyist. The statement indicates she was not the lead lobbyist on this contract and as such was not assigned duties in 2017 for this client until an increase in workload for this client occurred requiring her to register. She provided no additional support for this statement. Based on the prior year registration, and the contract, it appears that Ms. Lacey had a continuing relationship with the client which would require registration by January 8, 2017. Ms. Lacey did not register until February 15, 2017, 38 days late.

Heartland Solutions Group

The firm was also contracted to provide lobbying services for Heartland Solutions Group for 2017. The client is a new lobbyist client for the firm in 2017. Based on the contracts provided by Ms. Lacey, the lobbying relationship requiring registration appears to commence on January

3, 2017. Therefore, any lobbyist assigned from the inception of the contract would be required to register by January 10, 2017. The firm registered two lobbyists for this client in 2017, Ms. Lacey on February 22, 2017, and another lobbyist from the firm on February 3, 2017. The employer registered for both lobbyists on January 25, 2017.

Ms. Lacey provided a statement to indicate she was assigned duties for this client later in the year as the workload increased. She provided no additional support for this statement. If Ms. Lacey was assigned later than the original agreement date, she would still be required to register within seven days of the employer's registration for her on January 25, 2017, which was February 1, 2017. As noted above, Ms. Lacey registered on February 22, 2017, 21 days late.

Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

The firm contracted with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare to provide lobbying services for 2017. Ms. Lacey stated the firm has a verbal agreement for lobbying services. The lobbyist was also registered for this client in 2016. Ms. Lacey registered for the client on January 23, 2017. Although this appears to be a continuing lobbyist relationship, the lobbyist stated instead of registering at the beginning of the year she waited for confirmation of the relationship from the employer before registering. Ms. Lacey provided a February 3, 2017 invoice to show the confirmation. However, the employer registered the lobbying relationship on January 3, 2017. This registration would appear to confirm the relationship was continuing as of that day. Therefore, Ms. Lacey was required to register within seven days of the January 3, 2017, employer registration, which was January 10, 2017. Ms. Lacey did not register until January 23, 2017, 13 days late.

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America

The firm contracted with National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America to provide lobbying services for 2017. The client appears to be a new lobbyist client for the firm in 2017. Ms. Lacey provided an agreement dated October 15, 2017, which appears to state that services will begin on October 15, 2017. The signature of the client on the agreement was not dated. The lobbyist also provided an email showing the agreement was returned to the firm on November 15, 2017. Ms. Lacey was the only lobbyist registered for the client. Both Ms. Lacey and the employer registered on November 17, 2017.

A lobbyist is required to register within seven days after entering into an agreement or arrangement with an employer to provide lobbying services whether that agreement or arrangement is formal or informal, or written or unwritten. See, Advisory Opinion No. 06-01. Since unwritten and verbal agreements cannot be verified, the audit was design to find the best date available to determine when agreement is reached. In this situation, the documents provided may not be sufficient to make an exact determination of the required registration date. It would appear that although the agreement was not returned to the firm until November 15, 2017, an agreement had been reached by October 15, 2017. Using October 15, 2017 as the agreement date, Ms. Lacey was required to register by October 22, 2017 and her registration date of November 17, 2017, would be 26 days late. However, using November 15, 2017 as the agreement date, Ms. Lacey's registration would be considered timely.

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Ms. Lacey paid all registration fees.

LOBBYING AGREEMENT(S)

Based on a review of the audit documentation provided by Ms. Lacey, she was a contracted lobbyist employed by a firm. The firm had written contracts or letters of understanding with each employer except two clients. The lobbyists provided additional supporting documentation for the two clients related to services and payments. The terms in these documents appear to be within the statutes for lobbying activities including having no terms for contingency payments based on lobbying success.

FAMILY OR BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS WITH PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Ms. Lacey reported she had no business or familial relationships with persons who were officials in the legislative branch or officials in the executive branch.

TRAINING

Based on review of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance's lobbyist records, Ms. Lacey completed her required lobbyist training for the 2017 registration year and paid all training fees.