

**Department of
Veterans Services**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Chip Tansill, Director



February 26, 2016

Via Electronic and Regular U.S. Mail

Keisha Thompson
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Inspector General
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201
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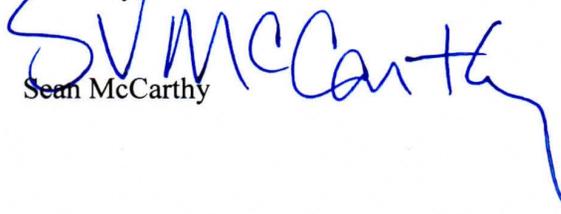
**Re: Ohio Veterans Home Sandusky and Ohio Veterans Home Georgetown
OIG Self-Disclosures**

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I write in response to your e-mail of February 4, 2016; specifically, your request for our proposal to resolve the Self-Disclosures identified above. As you may recall, I was hired as Chief Legal Counsel to the Department in December 2015. After I started, I learned of the Self-Disclosures previously made to your office by my predecessor. After review and discussion with outside legal counsel, I have concluded that the Self-Disclosures were submitted before a thorough investigation and legal analysis of the relationship with Stein Hospice was done. Based upon my investigation to date, I have concluded that the arrangement with Stein Hospice did not violate the Anti-Kickback Statute. Accordingly, the Ohio Veterans Homes are withdrawing from the Self-Disclosure Protocol.

I appreciate the patience and professional courtesy you showed by allowing me extra time to respond. As I said in my e-mail of February 4, 2016, we are willing to meet with you and the OIG to discuss this matter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this decision, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,


Sean McCarthy