



STATE OF OHIO

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS IMPROPER INFLUENCE BY VENDORS IN PROCESS USED TO HIRE AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT AT THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Columbus, Ohio, December 13, 2018

The Office of the Ohio Inspector General initiated an investigation in February of 2018 after discovering evidence indicating that Peter Quinn of Advocate Solutions LLC. and Cynthia Afkhami, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (OBWC) consultant and Stonyhurst Consulting LLC. (Stonyhurst) employee, colluded to tailor a position description to favor the hiring of Greg McCoy of Stonyhurst for an OBWC Information Technology (IT) consultant position.

Investigators determined that Quinn and Afkhami were involved in pre-selecting the candidate, drafting the position specifications, participating in candidate interviews, and interacting with Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS) employees to ensure ODAS approved the hiring recommendation. The investigation also evaluated the hiring process used to employ Afkhami as an OBWC consultant and found Quinn and Steve Zielenski, the president of Stonyhurst and ODAS executive IT consultant, attempted to influence the process used for her hiring.

The investigation determined that the state of Ohio paid an additional \$129,119 for the two pre-selected consultants than the next qualified candidates as a result of the undue influence in the hiring of McCoy and Afkhami. The conduct violated ODAS' Ethics policy which strives to ensure "fair and equal treatment of all suppliers who are interested in participating in the procurement" of information technology services.

The report of investigation contains six recommendations and will be provided to the Ohio Auditor of State's Office for further consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2018-CA00013 is now available at: <http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2018investigations.aspx>

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