

Date: December 5, 2016

To: Council Member Houston (Chair)
Mayor Pro Tem Tovo (Vice Chair)
Council Member Troxclair
Council Member Garza

Dear City Council HHS Committee Members:

I am the Director of the Center for Health and Social Policy (CHASP) and an Associate Professor at UT Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs. I am writing to you in regard to Dr. Abigail Aiken's consideration for the board of Central Health. It has been brought to my attention that an email was sent with concern that her appointment to the Central Health board may present a conflict of interest. I do not believe a conflict of interest exists and that the confusion may have come from a faculty listing we put on the CHASP website.

To be clear, Dr. Aiken is not appointed to CHASP, nor does CHASP provide any funding or research support to her, and as CHASP's Director I have no supervisory authority over her. On the CHASP website, we merely list all LBJ faculty members whose work is broadly related to health and social policy. These faculty members are listed as "Faculty Research Associates". We provide this listing as a way for students to connect with faculty who work in their area of interest. It is not a center that sponsors faculty research or provides resources to its associates.

One of the initiatives that CHASP has undertaken is a research collaborative with Seton Health Foundation. The Seton Foundation is a wholly separate entity from the Seton Healthcare Network. This collaboration provides small grants to UT faculty to foster multidisciplinary health research. Dr. Aiken has no connection with this initiative and receives no funding by this initiative.

As stated above, I do not believe a conflict of interest exists. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Osborne

CYNTHIA OSBORNE, Ph.D. | Associate Professor | cosborne@prc.utexas.edu
Director | Child and Family Research Partnership | childandfamilyresearch.org
Director | Center for Health and Social Policy | chasp.lbj.utexas.edu
The University of Texas at Austin | LBJ School of Public Affairs
2315 Red River St., Austin, TX 78713 | [512-471-9808](tel:512-471-9808)