

CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT PROJECTS (COPS)

CITIZENSOVERSIGHT.ORG

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August 18, 2008

Barry Jantz, CEO
Grossmont Healthcare District
9001 Wakarusa St.
La Mesa, CA 91942
Phone (619) 825-5050



REF: C00013

Dear Mr. Jantz:

We would appreciate your attention on the following requests. In reading our requests, please construct our statements as liberally as possible so that we may access the information requested even if we don't reference exact documents. For example, if we request a summary and one does not exist, then construct our request to refer to sufficient other documents (meeting minutes, logs, etc.) that would support the creation of such a summary, although we're not asking you to create the summary (and we are aware that you are not obligated to compile information, although you may do so if you desire). These requests apply to all entities related to the Grossmont Healthcare District (GHD), including any related committees, agencies or commissions.

1. PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST.

The following request is submitted per the California Public Records Act. We understand that the members of the GHD are invited to sit on the board of the Grossmont Hospital Corporation (GHC) (i.e. Sharp-Grossmont Hospital), and that you, as the CEO, are also invited to sit on the board in some capacity. We also understand that it is allowed for the GHD Board members to appoint an alternate.

---> Please provide records supporting who from the GHD board, their alternates, or staff attended meetings of the GHC board during the period from Jan 1, 2003 to the present.

2. REGARDING THE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND PATIENT CARE REPORTS

We hereby request that the following issues be placed on the GHD Board agenda for discussion.

- The "Agreement relating to Quality Assurance and Patient Care Reports" specifies that immediate reports will be made, given specific criteria, to the GHD CEO (Barry Jantz), and "...if requested, GHC's shall provide a report concerning the event to the GHD Board." By the construction of these sentences, it is implied that the GHD CEO would make the sole determination as to the appropriateness of informing the GHD Board. There is no mention about any changes to policy requiring the obligation of the CEO to inform the GHD Board.
 - We request that the GHD Board improve the wording of the agreement and the policies and procedures such that the CEO is obligated to report immediate reports to the GHD Board.

- The agreement mentioned above goes to great lengths to state that such reports would be covered under nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements. Even if the GHD Board is notified, it is unclear what benefit that will provide in terms of reducing and eliminating such occurrences, and it seems that the level of confidentiality is excessive.
 - It should also be stated that GHD Board members may provide reports to the State Department of Public Health or other appropriate authorities if that board member, in his or her best judgment, believes that such a report must be made, regardless of any nondisclosure agreement with GHC.
 - Minutes of the closed-session meetings should reflect the fact that some QA reports were received without detailing the specifics of any particular case that may be confidential to the patient.

3. OBSERVATIONS REGARDING OPENNESS OF THE GHD / GHC

The following observations imply that the GHD Board could improve their openness, perhaps beyond the legal minimum requirements. For example, there is no law that says that the GHD must have a web site. However, such sites are a standard part of our public environment and there is a clear expectation that the GHD site will be complete and easy to use. We make the following observations and would formally request that the GHD make corrections and enhancements in these areas to improve oversight opportunities by the public. We would appreciate your thorough reply to these observations.

- GHD Website does not provide meeting announcements of special meetings.
- GHD Website does not provide current or archived agendas (short or long form) nor meeting reports.
- GHD CEO Barry Jantz says that an announcement email list is maintained, but no mention of that exists on the website, and it is not clear how one should subscribe.
- GHD Website does not provide current "News and Upcoming Events". Last update was September, 2007, nearly a year ago, and it shows events from 2006 as if they are current.
- GHD Website lists Barry Jantz as if he is a member of the board instead of listing him as staff (on a separate web page or under a separate heading).
- According to the "Prop. G Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee" website, two seats are vacant. Q: Is the ICBOC responsible for filling these vacancies?
- ICBOC agendas are available on-line but provide headings only (short form).

We trust that you will receive these requests with the community spirit that they are intended.

Sincerely,

Raymond Lutz
 Coordinator, Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPs)