

**SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1**

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-497**

**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES  
CONTAINED IN DISTRICT BYLAWS, CODE OF ETHICS, AND LAW GOVERNING  
CONDUCT OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Bylaws of the San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 on July 26, 2017 in order to provide, among other things, procedures for the efficient running of open public meetings;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Board of Commissioners Code of Ethics of the San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 on November 19, 2014 to assure the public of the commissioners' commitment to the highest ethical standards;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners underwent governance training on February 26, 2018, which covered, among other things, the proper conduct of commissioners on the Board with respect to interactions with fellow commissioners and staff of the District, and commissioner responsibilities with respect to confidential information, and the obligation to serve the public interest in all actions of the Board and its individual commissioners;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners believes the public expects the commissioners to adhere to adopted procedural and ethical parameters for the good of the District;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners recognizes staff's hard work and dedication to working with the Board to fulfill the policy directives of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners finds that circumstances warrant that the Board of Commissioners reaffirm its commitment to the guiding principles in the Bylaws, Code of Ethics, and the generally applicable law governing the conduct of commissioners of the Board.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 as follows:

1. The Board reaffirms its commitment to adhere to all provisions of the Bylaws of the San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1, and in particular Section 10 governing "Board Relationships with Staff":
  - 10.1 Staff and Board members will mutually respect others' roles and responsibilities when, and if, expressing criticism in a public meeting.

...



- 10.3 Board members shall not attempt to change or interfere with the operating rules and practices of the District.
  - 10.4 No Board member shall direct the Chairperson to initiate any action or prepare any report that is significant in nature, or initiate any project or study without the consent of a majority of the Board.
  - 10.5 Individual requests for information can be made directly to the EMS Chief unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson. If the request would create a change in work assignments or EMS staffing levels, the request must be made through the Chairperson.
2. The Board reaffirms its commitment to adhere to all provisions of the Code of Ethics of the San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1, and in particular Section V governing "Principles and Practices," in that:
- S. Commissioners are expected to engage in robust, active discussions of the issues submitted to the Board for consideration, in order to arrive at the most carefully considered decisions for the District. With this in mind, Commissioners must study all relevant information (including materials in Board packages), articulate clearly their personal views, be prepared to argue for and support their positions, and, when appropriate, question and challenge the views of others. Such deliberations should be conducted in a respectful manner in line with customary standards of civility and decorum.
  - T. Commissioners, when discussing District business, whether at Board meetings or elsewhere, are urged to adhere to the following standards: Commissioners should (i) be respectful of the views of other Commissioners and executives, even if such views are contrary to the Commissioners' personal opinions; (ii) not divulge confidential information regarding the District's affairs; (iii) not purport to represent the views of the Board, unless authorized to do so by the Board; and (iv) not intentionally misrepresent, demean or belittle positions taken by other Commissioners or District executives and, where appropriate, take all reasonable steps to ensure that a balanced presentation of competing points of view is given so as to promote common understanding of (rather than to foster a spirit of divisiveness with respect to) the issues before the Board and the various competing points of view taken by other Commissioners and District executives. Nothing in this Code is intended to limit any Commissioner's constitutionally-protected rights of free speech, nor is this Code to be construed so as to impair the ability of Commissioners to participate in ceremonial, representational or informational functions in the pursuit of their official duties.
- ...
- V. Commissioners shall refrain from any illegal, unethical, or inappropriate conduct, whether or not specifically identified in this Code, and as seen or identified by the majority of fellow Commissioners.

3. The Board reaffirms its commitment that commissioners maintain the confidentiality of deliberations and information shared during executive sessions of the Board, as required by Washington state law. The disclosure of confidential information from an executive session by a Commissioner violates RCW 42.23.070(4), which states:

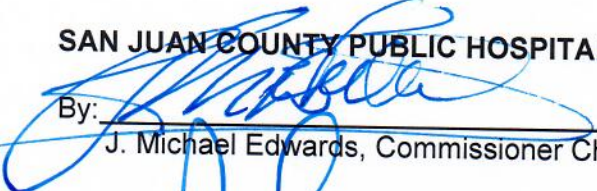
No municipal officer may disclose confidential information gained by reason of the officer's position, nor may the officer otherwise use such information for his or her personal gain or benefit.


The statute prohibits both the disclosure of confidential information and its use for personal gain or benefit. RCW 42.23.050 provides civil penalties for violations of RCW 42.23.070, which may include a monetary penalty and/or office forfeiture.

4. Commissioners reaffirm their commitment to Resolution No. 17-473 which directs commissioners not to represent or imply authority to act on behalf of the Board, including incurring financial obligations absent approval of the majority of the Board to do so without board's knowledge and consent and in fact grants and delegates such authority to an individual or individuals. Individual Commissioners may request the aid of the Board's legal counsel by submitting such request to the Chair of the Board or to the Superintendent's office.

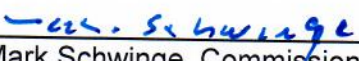
Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October 2018

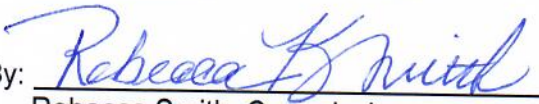
**SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO. 1**

By:   
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J. Michael Edwards, Commissioner Chair

By:   
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Warren Appleton, Commissioner

By:   
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Anna Lisa Lindstrum, Commissioner

By:   
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Mark Schwinge, Commissioner

By:   
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Rebecca Smith, Commissioner