

Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL)
HEAL Partnership Committee (HPC)

Conflict of interest reminder and declarations

March 5th, 2019

Lawrence Tabak DDS, PhD
Principal Deputy Director, NIH
Deputy Ethics Counselor, NIH

Without tension
There can be no music



Role of NIH Working Groups

- To serve as fact-finding bodies to gather information, conduct research, analyze relevant issues and/or draft proposed position papers
- To deliver recommendations for deliberation by the full Federal Advisory Committee(s)

Working Group Composition

- Working Groups (WGs) are comprised of two types of members:
 - **Special Government Employees (SGEs)** – Serving on an NIH Federal advisory committee and as a member of the MDWG
 - Will continue to be covered by Conflict of Interest statutes and regulations
 - Are required to file Confidential Financial Disclosure Report (OGE Form 450) and subsequent quarterly updates
 - Follow Designated Federal Official's (DFO's) directions re: recusal obligations

Working Group Composition

- Working Groups (WGs) are comprised of two types of members (cont):
 - **Non-SGEs** – Selected for specific expertise as it relates to the needs of the working group
 - Are not held to the same Government Ethics rules and regulations as SGEs
 - Are required to complete the certification process as managed by the DFO

Potential Sources of Bias

The following interests and relationships are potential sources of bias for a Working Group member or his/her immediate family member, among others:

- Holds a financial, equity, or a patent or other proprietary interest in an organization whose product or product concept:
 - is a subject of and/or competes with a product or product concept that is the subject of deliberations
 - would uniquely benefit from research emphasis in a defined area

Potential Sources of Bias (cont)

The following interests and relationships are potential sources of bias for a Working Group member or his/her immediate family member, among others

- Seeks employment in an organization or serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee of an organization whose product or product concept is a subject of and/or competes with a product or product concept to be discussed



How to Identify and Resolve a Conflict

- **SGEs**
 - Please excuse yourself from discussions of specific matters that could affect interests and relationships identified on your recusal list
 - Please complete the certification process as managed by the DFO



How to Identify and Resolve a Conflict (cont)

- **Non-SGEs**

- Please read the *Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Information for Working Group Participants* and review the WG charge and meeting agenda
- Please read the Certification Statement and certify whether you have a potential or actual conflict of interest (COI) with an agenda item for each meeting
- Please disclose the COI to the DFO and working group prior to any discussions of that item so it can be reflected in the minutes along with the group's determination of how to handle the conflict



Confidentiality & Closed Meetings - Reminder



Material made available to the working group, as well as discussions during closed meetings, are strictly confidential and may not be disclosed or discussed with anyone who has not been officially designated to participate in the working group meeting.



Participants must certify that they will maintain the confidentiality of the meeting materials and discussions and not disclose this information to any other individual, except as authorized by the NIH advisory committee to which the group reports.



