



AGO

Meeting with Rebecca Podzsus, former AGO grant manager

Date: March 7, 2019/ Time: 12:00pm-12:30pm

Interviewers: Sarah Walker, Fraud Manager and Stephanie Sullivan, Assistant Fraud Manager

Place: via skype conference phone

Sarah: Thanks for reaching back out to us and being willing to have another conversation. To address the question in your email,   3.4.19 Email from Rebecca your name or position title are not mentioned in our final report. We do however have notes from our conversation back in February in our underlying working papers.

Rebecca: I didn't figure it was going to be, just wanted to make sure.

Sarah: When we spoke with you, we were just trying to get a handle on the grant controls and how things were processed and what was the guidance the WCCVA had been given from the AGO. Which we appreciated your help with.

Rebecca: Oh good, yes, you're welcome.

Sarah: So yes, you are mentioned in our audit files, but not in our report. Also, can you please tell us what did Mike Webb say to you?

Rebecca: Well, I was a little surprised to hear from him. I have talked and texted with him every once in a while because we worked together for quite a while at the AG's. His call to me felt a little intimidating and what he was asking me and saying. I told him what I said to you and that I was being open and honest. I said there has to be some information in my old work emails that he should find supporting this. He told me, well there's not. The way he sounded when he talked to me felt intimidating.

Sarah: I'm sorry that's certainly not what we want to have happen. This typically does not happen when we talk to people that have been involved in a process that we are trying to just gain an accurate understanding. What you shared with us doesn't look as good for the AG's office with the process, the back dating of invoices, and we appreciated your honesty.

Rebecca: Right. Like, I said I was surprised he would go that route because it felt intimidating and having him ask what I said or what questions were asked of me by the State Auditor's Office.

Sarah: Was there anything else he said?

Rebecca: He said that my name will be out there and this will go to the media. I said to him, I would prefer it not, but I did tell the truth. When he asked me about paying invoices in advance and I had shared what I told you about it, he said to me well we don't think that happened and I

said well yes Mike it did happen and on both the grants I was working on. He said well we did not find that. I told him I am sorry to see there is conflict going on between two parties that I had gotten along with well.

Sarah: I would encourage you to keep telling the truth and I don't know, but you may get some other inquiries for others once our report is published. We have one last question for you, it was brought up to us that there was a relationship between someone in the AGO and WCCVA, did you know about this?

Rebecca: What I can say is truly hearsay. Cody had texted me a couple of times over the months when this all kind of started and mentioned something had happened. I'm not sure if the relationship occurred while I was there or after I left.

Sarah: Are you willing to share the names of the individuals?

Rebecca: Sure, it was between Mike Webb and Rose Torgerson. When Cody told me about this, it was surprising to me. I think she mentioned even that the WCCVA board members may have known.

Sarah: Do you recall the timing of Cody telling you this?



Rebecca: I can't remember specifically, but it was sometime towards the middle of the 2018 year. You know last time something I forgot to mention was that I did write and send a letter to the WCCVA board explaining how the processes were when I managed the grant. I could send you a copy of this letter. I explained in the letter about controls, communication, and what we had established when I was there. My apologies for not mentioning that before.

Sarah: That would be great to have this documentation. Do you have a month or specific date for when Cody told you about the personal relationship between Mike and Rose?

Rebecca: I believe it was sometime the middle of last year. Shelly at AGO contacted me, who works for Mike Webb, sometime in February or March or April last year and expressed that they were looking through files and wanted to make sure they had all of my files. Cody reached out to me sometime after that, so in the summer maybe. I know it was on a day when I supposed to meet a friend for coffee, but he couldn't make it, so I can look up that date in my calendar and get back to you.

Sarah: That would be great if you could find a timeframe for us. Thank you again for being willing to talk with us and help us have the right understanding. If we can be of assistance to you in anyway please let us know.

Note: Subsequent to our phone call, on 3/7/19 Rebecca

 [FormerGrantManager_provided Support](#) provided the information discussed supporting the letter she mentioned that was sent by her to the WCCVA board dated 4/12/18 and sent to Cody on 4/15/18.  [FormerGrantManager_letter 4.12.18](#). The fourth bullet in the letter notes "established payment protocol for WCCVA vouchers". Rebecca also looked back at her old

calendar appointment and said it was 4/3/18 that Cody disclosed the relationship of Mike Webb and Rose Torgenson to her.