

Attorney General Office

Interview of Jeri Costa, contracted service with WCCVA

Date: December 3, 2018

Time: 11:00am -11:20am

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

Place: via phone

Introductory information and questions:

- Thank you for meeting with us today. My name is Sarah Walker and this is Stephanie Sullivan. We will both be asking some questions and taking notes.
- The State Auditor's Office is a reporting agency, not an enforcement agency. We perform several different types of audits at a variety of government agencies across the State of Washington. The State Auditor's Office is reviewing a state grant that provided funding to the WCCVA and we have a few questions about the process and specific transactions.
- I want to make sure you are aware of the following:
 - You are not required to discuss any information related to the audit with us; however, we consider your input valuable and it will assist us in making recommendations.
 - If you would like to end the meeting at any time, you may do so. Also, if you want to take a short break from the interview, just let us know.
- Do you understand what we have explained to you? *Yes*
- Are you willing to proceed? *Yes*

General Questions:

1. Please describe your businesses involvement with the WCCVA.
For many years, I've conducted training. I was a contracted trainer for victims' rights and their core academy.
2. Who was your point of contact at the WCCVA?
In the most recent years Cody Benson. When on staff, Rose Torgenson. This would be since they have had the state funding.
3. Please describe how you billed the WCCVA for services and how you were compensated.
I invoiced them through a written invoice and received payment by check.
4. Who did you provide invoices to for your billed services? Cody.
I believe it would have been Cody Benson.
5. Did your business or you personally ever provide funding to WCCVA? *No and those do not sound familiar.*
 - a. Merchandise sales on wccva website/ ebay
 - b. Donations
 - c. Pledges

d. Googlesearch revenue

6. Are you familiar with Tower Limited and Phillip Burgess? What is your understanding of the services they were providing to the WCCVA?

I am familiar with Brad Tower. I believe he provided advocacy type services. I am not familiar with Phillip Burgess's name.

Specific Questions:

7. Did you bill the WCCVA on June 29, 2015 for \$39,600 in services provided?

No, it was not an actual invoice. It was at the request of Cody and we went back and forth on that. I've provided a bunch of emails to the AG's office on that. This was near the end of the biennium and we had been going back and forth about the Advance academy's curriculum. Cody indicated she needed to have an idea or a way to obligate the funds. I told her I couldn't bill for anything when the services had not been done but I could prepare a purchase order that would be subject to a contract. She never did follow up with a contract so we did not provide the services.

Follow up by Sarah: Anything else that you would like to share with us or anything similar to this instance that we should know about as auditors looking at this grant?

They did go through a couple of different accountants and my 1099's had not been prepared correctly. They were including travel reimbursement amounts in my 1099 and that were incorrect. It took quite a while to get this corrected.

Thank you for meeting with us today. If you think of something else you want to share with us, please don't hesitate to contact us.