



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

**Waiver 23-12-016  
December 18, 2023**

Pursuant to § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) of the Public Ethics Law, a public employee must not be employed by a business that negotiates or contracts with the County agency with which the public employee is affiliated, unless the Ethics Commission grants a waiver.

Vincent Batteast is a Community Service Aide III at Behavioral Health and Crisis Services (BHCS) Division at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). He would like to engage in outside employment as a part-time Mobile Response Peer Recovery Specialist with the Carroll County, Maryland, office of Affiliated Sante Group (ASG), located in Sykesville, Maryland. ASG is an entity which has contracts with DHHS.

As a Community Service Aide III with DHHS-BHCS, Mr. Batteast serves as a case manager at the County Crisis Center. He works with children and families that reside in Montgomery County and his responsibilities include following up with clients of the crisis center. In his role at DHHS, he holds no contract monitoring or procurement responsibilities and is not involved in matters affecting ASG.

As a part-time Mobile Response Peer Recovery Specialist with ASG in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Carroll and Howard Counties, Mr. Batteast would be employed with the crisis response team. As a Mobile Response Peer Recovery Specialist, his role would be to provide counseling to clients experiencing crisis. The population he would serve in his proposed outside employment is comprised of residents living in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, or Howard County.

ASG is a large nonprofit organization that runs several smaller sub-entities. They have offices throughout Maryland – one of which is in Silver Spring, and another of which is in Sykesville, located in Carroll County. Mr. Batteast's proposed outside employment would be in the Sykesville office. ASG has four contracts with DHHS, all of which revolve around services provided to Montgomery County community members in crisis through the Silver Spring ASG office. The contracts between DHHS and ASG have nothing to do with the ASG office in Carroll County, and funds for the Silver Spring ASG office are not shared with the Carroll County office. At ASG, Mr. Batteast does not work on matters related to DHHS contracts with ASG.

---

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION**

**100 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROOM 204, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850  
OFFICE: 240.777.6670 FAX: 240.777.6672**

If in some unlikely circumstance, Mr. Batteast is presented with a crossover client from his County position to or from his role with ASG, he has committed to hand that case to a colleague to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Pursuant to § 19A-8(b)(3) of the Public Ethics Law, the Ethics Commission may grant a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b) if the Commission concludes that the proposed employment is not likely to create an actual conflict of interest. Upon a review of the request and the Department's concurrence in and support for the waiver request, the Commission finds that there is no actual conflict of interest. Pursuant to the standard of § 19A-8(b)(3), the Commission grants the waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b).

The Commission notes that while 19A-12(b)'s prohibition is waived, the other provisions of the ethics law are not, including those prohibiting an employee from working on official matters relating to the outside employer. The approval of this waiver is conditioned on the facts on which the waiver is based remaining unchanged. This waiver is also conditioned on Mr. Batteast not making referrals as a County employee to ASG or soliciting other County employees to make such referrals.

This waiver expires when the outside employment approval with which it is associated expires, unless a continuation request for outside employment is timely filed and subsequently approved by the Ethics Commission. In reaching this decision, the Commission has relied upon the facts as presented by Mr. Batteast.

For the Commission:



---

Susan Beard, Acting Chair