

July 17, 2008

By Electronic Mail Only

Re: AO-08-41

You inquired whether you may sit on the board of directors of Centro De Ayuda, since the entity received a \$14,000 grant from the county in the FY 2009 budget. You are the legislative assistant to one of the council members who participated in the consideration and approval of the budget. There is apparently no other connection between the council and the grant recipient; the grant, once approved, is administered through the office of the chief administrative officer.

The ethics commission advises that you may serve, in your personal capacity, on the board of the entity, subject to certain limitations. First, you may not use, or permit the entity to use, your job title or any other references to your county position in its literature, advertising, or other materials. §7-5-107(b). See, for example, [AO-07-90](#), [AO-07-38](#).

Second, if your duties on the board involve fundraising, you may not target “controlled donors” – people or entities doing business with the county – in any fundraising efforts. §§7-5-106, 7-5-107(a).

Third, as a member of the board of directors, you may not assist or represent the entity before any county employee- including the council member for whom you work- and you may not assist or represent the entity in any matter in which the County has an interest. §7-5-104(a). See, AO-07-38, [AO-07-26](#).

Finally, while you serve on the board of the entity, you may not participate in any official county duty that may affect the interests of the entity. §7-5-101. You may not participate in any discussions about the entity, you may not provide information about the entity to the council member for whom you work, and you may not attend meetings or events of the entity in your official county capacity, or report back on those meetings. See, AO-07-90, [IO-05-29](#), [IO-04-23](#).

Subject to these limitations, the ethics commission advises that you may serve on the board of directors of the Centro De Ayuda.

Thank you for your inquiry.

The Anne Arundel County Ethics Commission

/s/

By: _____
Betsy K. Dawson, Executive Director