

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BEFORE THE
GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
TO THE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
ORGANIZED PURSUANT TO THE
CALIFORNIA STEM CELL RESEARCH, TREATMENTS, AND CURES
INITIATIVE OF 2020
REGULAR MEETING

LOCATION: VIA ZOOM

DATE: MARCH 14, 2025
10:30 A.M.

REPORTER: BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR
CSR. NO. 7152

FILE NO.: 2025-7

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO.
OPEN SESSION	
1. CALL TO ORDER	3
2. ROLL CALL	3
3. CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASING POLICY	4
4. PUBLIC COMMENT	NONE
5. ADJOURNMENT	11

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MARCH 14, 2025; 10:30 A.M.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: GOOD MORNING,
EVERYONE. THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE GOVERNANCE
SUBCOMMITTEE. WE HAVE A PRETTY BRIEF AGENDA TODAY,
BUT LET'S START WITH ASKING SCOTT TO CALL THE ROLL
PLEASE.

MR. TOCHER: KIM BARRETT.

DR. BARRETT: PRESENT.

MR. TOCHER: DAN BERNAL. GEORGE
BLUMENTHAL.

DR. BLUMENTHAL: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: MARIA BONNEVILLE.

VICE CHAIR BONNEVILLE: PRESENT.

MR. TOCHER: LINDA BOXER. ANNE-MARIE
DULIEGE. ELENA FLOWERS. JUDY GASSON.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: VITO IMBASCIANI.

CHAIRMAN IMBASCIANI: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: PAT LEVITT.

DR. LEVITT: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: LINDA MALKAS.

DR. MALKAS: HERE.

MR. TOCHER: ADRIANA PADILLA.

DR. PADILLA: HERE.

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 MR. TOCHER: THANKS VERY MUCH. JUDY, WE
2 HAVE A QUORUM.

3 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: EXCELLENT. OKAY.
4 THE TOPIC FOR TODAY IS THE CONSIDERATION OF THE
5 PURCHASING POLICY. AND WE HAVE A PRESENTATION. SO,
6 RAFAEL, I'LL HAND IT OVER TO YOU. THANK YOU.

7 MR. AGUIRRE-SACASA: THANK YOU, JUDY, AND
8 THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE
9 AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CIRM STAFF. APPRECIATE YOU ALL
10 BEING HERE.

11 WE KNOW THAT PURCHASING POLICIES AREN'T AS
12 INTERESTING AS SOME OF THE OTHER CIRM PROGRAMS WE
13 HAVE GOING ON, BUT IT'S ONE OF THE BASIC BUILDING
14 BLOCKS OF ANY STRONG COMPLIANCE PROGRAM. AND SINCE
15 WE HADN'T LOOKED AT THIS SINCE 2016, THE FINANCE AND
16 LEGAL TEAMS, WITH THE ADVICE OF J.T. AND THE
17 GOVERNANCE TEAM, THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO
18 TAKE A LOOK AT IT AND JUST SEE IF WE COULD IMPROVE
19 IT IN ANY, WAY, SHAPE OR FORM.

20 WE THINK WE'RE PRESENTING A NEW POLICY
21 THAT ACCOMPLISHES THOSE GOALS. WHAT IT DOES, AND
22 I'M JUST SUMMARIZING WHAT'S IN THE MEMO HERE, SO,
23 AGAIN, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF
24 THESE WORDS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. BUT JUST WANTED
25 TO GO OVER THIS BEFORE I TOSS IT OVER TO MICHELLE

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 LEWIS, MY COLLEAGUE, SO SHE CAN GO OVER A BRIEF
2 PRESENTATION FOR YOU.

3 SO, AGAIN, THE NEW POLICY REMOVES A LOT OF
4 EXTRANEOUS CONTENT AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES THAT
5 PROBABLY JUST SHOULDN'T BE IN A POLICY. WE'RE GOING
6 FROM SOMETHING LIKE TWENTY PAGES DOWN TO THREE AND A
7 HALF, FOUR PAGES. IT'S GOING TO FOCUS ON
8 PROCUREMENT GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE, CLARITY, AND
9 EFFICIENCY.

10 WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THESE
11 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES THAT WILL FLOW FROM
12 THE POLICY, BUT OBVIOUSLY WE WANTED TO GET APPROVAL
13 FROM THE ICOC ON THE POLICY ITSELF BEFORE FINALIZING
14 THOSE.

15 WE THINK THAT THIS POLICY WILL BE EASIER
16 TO TRAIN ON, CERTAINLY EASIER TO ADMINISTER. AND
17 ALSO IT WILL BE -- WE THINK IT'S GOING TO BE EASIER
18 FOR OUR USERS TO COMPREHEND, MORE USER FRIENDLY.

19 WHAT IT DID IS WE REMOVED A WHOLE BUNCH OF
20 DETAILED DEFINITIONS TO FOCUS ON PROCUREMENT
21 GOVERNANCE, AS I TOUCHED UPON EARLIER. WE CLARIFIED
22 CONTRACT TERM LIMITS BY ESTABLISHING A MAXIMUM TERM
23 OF TEN YEARS, INCLUDING EXTENSIONS. WE STANDARDIZED
24 THE APPROVAL AUTHORITY TO ALIGN WITH FINANCIAL
25 THRESHOLDS. WE REVISED THE POLICY TO REINFORCE

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 COMPETITIVE BIDDING AND SUPPLIER DIVERSITY STANDARDS
2 TO HELP ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS
3 IN PROCUREMENT DECISIONS. AND WE THINK THIS WILL
4 ENHANCE RECORDING AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS
5 THROUGHOUT THE POLICY BY HAVING STRICTER MONITORING
6 MEASURES THAT PROVIDE FOR BETTER ADHERENCE AND
7 FOLLOWING OF THE CONTRACT AND TRACKING OF THE
8 CONTRACT.

9 SO WITH THAT, I'M GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO
10 MICHELLE, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

11 MS. LEWIS: I DON'T. GOOD MORNING, CHAIR
12 AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND CIRM STAFF. SO
13 I'M GOING TO SHARE MY SCREEN. WE JUST HAVE A VERY
14 BRIEF POWERPOINT JUST TO SHOWCASE SOME OF THE
15 HIGHLIGHTS. HOPEFULLY EVERYONE CAN SEE THAT.

16 SO WE JUST WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE
17 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CURRENT CONTRACTING POLICY.
18 WE'VE REVISED AND STREAMLINED THE PREVIOUS POLICY ON
19 CONTRACTING AND SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS.
20 THE NEW POLICY WOULD BE TITLED "PURCHASING POLICY."

21 THE REVISED POLICY INCLUDES ALL PURCHASE
22 TYPES AND FOCUSES ON PROCUREMENT GOVERNANCE,
23 TRANSPARENCY, AND EFFICIENCY. IT REMOVES THE
24 OPERATING PROCEDURES TO FOCUS ON A STREAMLINED
25 DOCUMENT WITH A HIGH-LEVEL POLICY.

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS, WE WILL BE
2 DEVELOPING OPERATING PROCEDURES. THE FINANCE TEAM
3 WILL WORK WITH THE LEGAL TEAM TO ENSURE THAT THESE
4 ARE PROPER OPERATING PROCEDURES, AND WE WILL ALSO
5 DEVELOP A TRAINING FOR ALL CIRM STAFF.

6 THE REVISED POLICY REINFORCES COMPETITIVE
7 BIDDING AND SUPPLIER DIVERSITY WHILE ALSO
8 EMPHASIZING COMPLIANCE AND AUDITING MEASURES.

9 SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHANGES ARE
10 THAT WE REMOVED DEFINITIONS FROM PAGES 1 AND 2; FOR
11 EXAMPLE, THE EMPLOYER TO EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP.
12 THEY ARE LOWER LEVEL IN SCOPE, AND THEY SHOULD BE
13 PLACED IN A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE.

14 WE REMOVED LOWER-LEVEL SCOPE ALSO FROM
15 GENERAL POLICY AND PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS. THOSE WERE
16 PAGES 3 THROUGH 17 OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY; FOR
17 EXAMPLE, PROCUREMENT CONTRACT VERSUS PURCHASE ORDER.
18 THOSE ARE, AGAIN, MORE LOW-LEVEL DEFINITIONS THAT
19 ARE MORE APPLICABLE IN A STANDARD OPERATING
20 PROCEDURE.

21 WE ALSO REMOVED THE APPENDICES I THROUGH
22 III AS THEY APPLY TO ONLY -- NOT ONLY DO THEY APPLY
23 TO ONLY ONE TYPE OF CONTRACT, BUT THOSE ARE ALSO
24 DOCUMENTS THAT SHOULD BE PLACED IN A STANDARD
25 OPERATING PROCEDURE.

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 AND AT THIS POINT, CIRM REQUESTS APPROVAL
2 OF THE PROPOSED PURCHASING POLICY.

3 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
4 MICHELLE. DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR
5 MICHELLE? GEORGE, I THINK I SEE YOUR HAND UP.

6 DR. BLUMENTHAL: A QUICK QUESTION. AS I
7 UNDERSTAND IT, THE BOARD IS BEING ASKED TO APPROVE
8 THIS NEW POLICY WHICH HAS REMOVED THE PROCEDURES,
9 THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES, FROM THE POLICY
10 ITSELF SINCE THOSE PROCEDURES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING
11 AT A LATER TIME. ARE THOSE PROCEDURES THEN UNDER
12 PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE RATHER THAN BOARD AUTHORITY
13 SO THAT THEY WILL BE DEVELOPED INTERNALLY BY THE
14 STAFF AND PUT IN PLACE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE
15 PRESIDENT? IS THAT A CORRECT STATEMENT OF WHAT WE
16 EXPECT TO HAPPEN.

17 MS. LEWIS: YES.

18 MR. AGUIRRE-SACASA: THAT'S CORRECT.

19 DR. BLUMENTHAL: OKAY.

20 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: ANY OTHER HANDS
21 RAISED, QUESTIONS FOR EITHER RAFAEL OR MICHELLE?
22 OKAY.

23 SO WOULD YOU LIKE ME ENTERTAIN A MOTION AT
24 THIS POINT TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE PURCHASING
25 POLICY?

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 MR. TOCHER: JUDY, THIS IS SCOTT. THE
2 MOTION WILL BE TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL BOARD
3 APPROVAL OF THE CHANGES.

4 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: YES, CORRECT. YES,
5 CORRECT.

6 VICE CHAIR BONNEVILLE: SO MOVED.

7 DR. BLUMENTHAL: SECOND.

8 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: WHO WAS THE SECOND?
9 SORRY.

10 DR. BLUMENTHAL: I WAS.

11 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: THANKS, GEORGE.
12 OKAY. SCOTT, WOULD YOU CALL THE ROLL PLEASE.

13 MR. TOCHER: I'LL JUST GO THROUGH THE
14 FORMALITY OF ASKING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. I DON'T
15 THINK WE HAVE ANY, AND I DON'T SEE ANY.

16 SO KIM BARRETT.

17 DR. BARRETT: AYE.

18 MR. TOCHER: GEORGE BLUMENTHAL.

19 DR. BLUMENTHAL: YES.

20 MR. TOCHER: MARIA BONNEVILLE.

21 VICE CHAIR BONNEVILLE: YES.

22 MR. TOCHER: JUDY GASSON.

23 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: YES.

24 MR. TOCHER: VITO IMBASCIANI.

25 CHAIRMAN IMBASCIANI. YES.

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. TOCHER: PAT LEVITT.
DR. LEVITT: YES.
MR. TOCHER: LINDA MALKAS.
DR. MALKAS: YES.
MR. TOCHER: AND ADRIANA PADILLA.
DR. PADILLA: YES.
MR. TOCHER: GREAT. THANKS VERY MUCH.

THE MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY. JUDY.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. SO WE'LL BE
ABLE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL TO THE ICOC BOARD ON THE
27TH WHEN WE MEET NEXT.

THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA IS A MEMO, AND
I'LL TURN IT BACK TO RAFAEL AGAIN.

MR. TOCHER: JUDY, I THINK THE MEMO IS THE
ACCOMPANYING ITEM TO ITEM WE JUST HAD.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: SO THERE'S NOTHING
DIFFERENT IN THE MEMO.

MR. TOCHER: CORRECT.

MR. AGUIRRE-SACASA: THAT WAS FOR
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE
BOARD, JUDY, SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE MORE BACKGROUND ON
THE CHANGES AND THE UPDATES.

CHAIRPERSON GASSON: EXCELLENT. OKAY,
THEN. DOES ANYONE ON THE COMMITTEE HAVE ANYTHING
THEY WANT TO COMMENT ON AT THIS TIME? ANYTHING FROM

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR NO. 7152

1 THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC?

2 MR. TOCHER: DOESN'T APPEAR SO, JUDY.

3 CHAIRPERSON GASSON: OKAY. WELL, THIS WAS
4 A VERY EFFICIENT MEETING. SO THANK YOU TO RAFAEL,
5 TO SCOTT, AND TO MICHELLE. AND WE ARE ADJOURNED.

6 (THE MEETING WAS THEN CONCLUDED AT 10:40 A.M.)

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, BETH C. DRAIN, A CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE GOVERNANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE INDEPENDENT CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE IN THE MATTER OF ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 14, 2025, WAS HELD AS HEREIN APPEARS AND THAT THIS IS THE ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT THEREOF AND THAT THE STATEMENTS THAT APPEAR IN THIS TRANSCRIPT WERE REPORTED STENOGRAPHICALLY BY ME AND TRANSCRIBED BY ME. I ALSO CERTIFY THAT THIS TRANSCRIPT IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING.

BETH C. DRAIN, CA CSR 7152
133 HENNA COURT
SANDPOINT, IDAHO
(208) 920-3543