

Conflict of interest safeguards pertaining to SIM related procurements

- The SIM initiative will provide a mechanism for funding a broad array of reforms that may directly or indirectly benefit consumers and providers throughout Connecticut. While many reforms and initiatives have been proposed, the State does not know today all of what it will undertake or what additional funds may become available to support SIM related work.
- It is in the best interest of the State and the SIM initiative to enable broad-based and diverse stakeholder input through its governance structure, which is comprised of a wide variety of advisory bodies.
- The State acknowledges that members of these advisory bodies, or the organizations they represent, may at some point wish to be participants in or beneficiaries of one of the many initiatives that the SIM PMO will undertake, and that this may represent a conflict of interest.
- The following proposed protocol is intended to guard against such potential conflicts:
 - The advisory bodies will not have a direct role in managing state funds, financing initiatives or making funding award decisions.
 - All procurements pertaining to SIM related initiatives will be undertaken by the state, primarily through the SIM PMO or through state agencies, and will not be undertaken by advisory bodies.
 - If the SIM PMO requests advice from an advisory body regarding the allocation of budgeted funds to support an initiative, members of that body who would directly benefit from such decisions or whose organizations would directly benefit will recuse themselves from such deliberations.
 - Members of the advisory bodies may participate in program design and development decisions, even if they or their organizations may potentially benefit from such programs with the proviso that:
 - The deliberations of the advisory bodies regarding such program design and development decisions are public, and
 - Materials prepared to support such deliberations and meeting summaries are published on the SIM website at www.healthreform.ct.gov and available to members of the public without restriction.
 - At such time that the state determines to proceed with a procurement, the state will prepare and undertake such procurements in accordance with the state's procurement guidelines. The preparation of the procurement materials and the conduct of the selection of a successful bidder(s) will be strictly confidential until such time as the procurement documents become part of the public record. The SIM advisory bodies will not participate in such procurements nor have access to information pertaining to the procurement, while such procurement is in process.
 - The state may, in its procurement process, include state agency personnel as well as outside stakeholders, including stakeholders that may be members of a SIM advisory body. However, such participants will be required to sign a confidentiality and conflict of interest statement that provides assurances that participants do not have any interest that substantially conflicts with the proper discharge of their duties in the public interest (C.G.S. § 1-85).