

11/7/24 Government Services

I'm speaking today about the county's Corporate Compliance program. The purpose of corporate compliance is to assist whistleblowers to report corporate fraud and malfeasance and if you look at the county website, the goals and procedures are all beautifully written there. I'm assuming that all the legislators have been educated about corporate compliance, since all county employees receive a yearly mandatory training, as I did for 25 years. According to the webpage, the corporate compliance committee is supposed to report to the legislature, although during the last 4 years, I can't recall them ever doing so. This is probably the committee it would report to. At any rate, the corporate compliance program was weaponized by the last Legislative Chair by encouraging county employees to report each other and to streamline disproportionate disciplinary actions, and then to work with HR and the County Attorney's office to force the resignations of numerous management level employees who that Chair disliked. It's all done behind the scenes and non-disclosure agreements abound. That system is still in place and being utilized to prolong the previous legislature's agenda about privatizing the ACC through spreading misinformation and attempting to silence legislators and management who disagree.

Anyway, I submitted a complaint to the Corporate Compliance program in March, regarding my concerns about Infinitecare's consultancy contract. I thought I should utilize all avenues. I believe that the ACC residents' Medicaid funds are being misused, mismanaged and possibly embezzled. The ratings have been 1 star for over a year now. The county provides inadequate oversight and enforcement of the contract. Medicaid fraud is the main reason for a corporate compliance program to exist. Most of my complaint has already been stated publicly but I would be happy to share my email with any of you. I was interviewed by Michelle Huck and Christine Panos in late April and afterwards Michelle told me that they would be investigating and would contact me with any determinations. After 6 months, I emailed them. I received an email back from Michelle stating that there had been no determination because there had been no investigation because there was no evidence.

I could ask her how it was determined that there was no evidence, if nobody investigated, but of course, I hadn't really expected to be validated by someone who has been so involved with the project that I was complaining about. That's a very big conflict of interest for the corporate compliance officers. I still think that a corporate compliance program is the proper vehicle in our county system for reporting corporate fraud and the waste and abuse of public monies, as is the case with the ACC. There is certainly a need for a

corporate compliance program, but I suggest that the legislature should consider taking it out of the county manager's office, where, as my experience shows, it is still being used to further an agenda rather than for the purpose of enforcing a healthy and ethical corporate compliance program. The county manager's office is in effect exempted from corporate compliance procedures by containing that program. Thank you.