

BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

In Re:

LISA HOLSTEIN,

VCRB 2021-30

**Threat Preparedness Coordinator,
Boone County Health Department,**

Respondent.

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

The Probable Cause Review Board, having investigated and considered the allegations set forth in VCRB 2021-30, unanimously finds that there is probable cause to believe that Respondent Lisa Holstein violated the provisions of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act, in her public position as the Threat Preparedness Coordinator for the Boone County Health Department, as follows:

Count One: The Respondent's daughter, Sarah Brown, became a part-time employee of the Boone County Health Department on or around October 9, 2017, and continued in that position until approximately June 2019. The Respondent's daughter then became a contract employee of the Health Department on or around September 16, 2019, and continued in that position until June 25, 2021.

The Respondent showed favoritism to her daughter by facilitating her daughter's employment with the Boone County Health Department as both a part-time employee and as a contract employee. The Respondent further influenced or attempted to influence her daughter's employment and made or participated in decisions affecting her daughter's employment and working conditions. The positions for which her

daughter was hired at the Health Department were not advertised, no other candidates were solicited or considered for the positions, and the Respondent was involved in the decision to hire her daughter. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.a. (2017).

Count Two: The Respondent directly supervised her daughter at the Health Department during her daughter's employment as both a part-time employee and as a contract worker. Sarah Brown reported directly to the Respondent, and the Respondent directed her day-to-day activities. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.b. (2017).

Count Three: The Respondent's son, Matthew Holstein, became a part-time employee of the Boone County Health Department on or around August 19, 2019, and continued in that position until approximately June 25, 2021.

The Respondent showed favoritism to her son by facilitating her son's employment with the Boone County Health Department as a part-time employee. The Respondent further influenced or attempted to influence her son's employment and made or participated in decisions affecting her son's employment and working conditions. The position for which her son was hired at the Health Department was not advertised, no other candidates were solicited or considered for the positions, and the Respondent was involved in the decision to hire her son. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.a. (2017).

Count Four: The Respondent directly supervised her son's employment at the Health Department. Matthew Holstein reported directly to the Respondent, and the Respondent directed his day-to-day activities. The actions of the Respondent violated W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(1), W. Va. Code § 6B-2-5(b)(4), W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.4 (2017), and W. Va. Code R. § 158-6-3.5.b. (2017).

ENTERED: APR 25 2022



Michael A. Kawash, Chairperson
Probable Cause Review Board



Daniel J. Guida, Member
Probable Cause Review Board

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kimberly B. Weber, Executive Director of the West Virginia Ethics Commission, hereby certify that I mailed a true and complete copy of the foregoing **PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER** on April 25, 2022, to:

Via U.S. Mail and Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested:

Lisa Holstein
68 Horse Branch Hollow Road
Danville, WV 25053
Respondent

Via Email and Hand Delivery:

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