

I have a high regard for Deb Shields's skill and work ethic, and if the Shields group is awarded the clinic contract, I'm sure they'll be far superior to Unity Care in their final years here. I'm also pleased that the new district commissioners are engaged and diligent. And in particular, I'm very impressed with the job Barb Wayland is doing as Superintendent. We're lucky to have someone with her experience and sound judgment in that position, and the commissioners would do well to heed her advice.

However, I'm frankly appalled at how Super Track has been treated in this process. They stepped in after Unity Care left to provide primary care along with sorely needed urgent care, and the commissioners should not under-appreciate how much effort and commitment it took for them to establish service here. And yet their reward for this effort and commitment is to have their business undermined by their own employees and the prospect that that betrayal will be rewarded by the district choosing to award their contract to these employees. I can't imagine that any other provider, after seeing what Super Track went through here, would ever want to offer services here in the future.

Consequently, the decision to award the contract to the Shields group should not be viewed as a conventional business relationship but more like a marriage, a life-time commitment to one individual, with the future of health care in Point Roberts depending entirely on her presence and performance.

Under the circumstances, I believe awarding the contract to the Shields group would be irresponsible. And given the relative levels of experience and depth of resources between the two providers, I think it would incur an unacceptable level of long term risk for health care in Point Roberts. As much as I personally like some of the members of the Shields group, I urge you to award the contract to Super Track.

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