



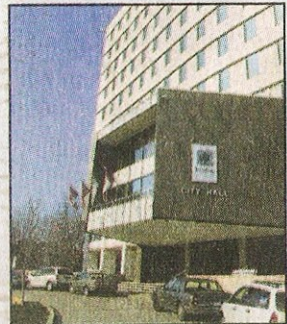
The London Free Press



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HOSPITAL CONTRACTS: Chief executive Cliff Nordal didn't notify the regulating agency for nearly two months about an internal audit

Regulators kept in dark

JONATHAN SHER
The London Free Press

For nearly two months, London's hospital chief didn't tell regulators about an internal audit that found one of his vice-presidents approved paying the company of a former colleague \$3 million without competitive bidding or authorization.

Chief executive Cliff Nordal placed the call only after The Free Press obtained the audit



MORE: Read the auditor's report at lfp.com

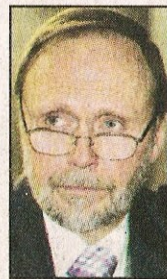
and questioned hospital officials about the conduct of Diane Beattie, a vice-president for London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and St. Joseph's Health Care.

That concerns the head the agency that provided the money

for the contract and oversees health-care spending in South-western Ontario.

"If there is an issue of an inappropriate tender related to (our money), we should be notified immediately," said Michael Barrett, chief executive of the South West Local Health Integration Network. "The hospital policies have been breached, which is a concern to us."

Barrett disputes the central claim Beattie made to the



Cliff Nordal



Diane Beattie

hospital's auditor — she said she signed the contract on behalf of the provincial agency, which had directed her not to seek other bidders.

Barrett disputes her claim and says she was acting for the London hospitals when she authorized money to be paid to The Atwood Group, a company run by her former colleague at Union Gas, Tom Vlastic.

PHOTO PRO RECOGNIZED

Jennifer Squires, a London modern fine art photographer, has been named to *Photo Life* magazine's 2009 list of Emerging Photographers.

Squires has been shooting professionally since 1996, after graduating from Fanshawe College. She began working at a Toronto advertising studio.

In 2005 Squires returned to London to freelance and teach in the advanced photography program at Fanshawe. She sells modern fine-art photos online.

Her work can be viewed at www.jennifersquires.ca.