Hi Laurie and Michael – can you please make sure Eric gets the letter below?

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Dear Mr. Spofford:

In early June, NHPR will publish a podcast series that includes our reporting on allegations against you. The series begins with those allegations and then broadens out to explore nationally-relevant context about addiction, sexual misconduct, and the treatment industry. We want to ensure that you have an opportunity to respond prior to publication.

Our deadline for your responses to be included in the podcast is 5 p.m. EST on May 24, 2023.

Some of the allegations were already published in NHPR’s March 22, 2022 story (in written and radio broadcast form) entitled, “He built New Hampshire’s largest addiction treatment network. Now, he faces accusations of sexual misconduct.” Where we describe those allegations in the podcast, we will include your previous responses. And while our sources “Elizabeth” and “Employee A” do not allege any additional wrongdoing in this podcast, we welcome any further comment you would like to offer. In the podcast, their stories will be presented with more context and additional corroboration.

The podcast will also take a more in-depth look at your history and the origins of Granite Recovery Centers.

We hope you will be willing to offer comment on the following claims and allegations that appear for the first time in this podcast:

1. A source, appearing under the pseudonym “Andrea,” says that she met you in 2009 at a 12-step meeting. She says you asked her, via social media, to send you intimate photos of herself — and she did. She expresses regret about her actions – she was trying to stop drinking, an extremely vulnerable time in her life. She says you took advantage of her obvious lack of self esteem. Do you have any response to this?

2. Andrea describes your behavior as “13th stepping” and says you “really had it down to a science.” We have corroborated her story with someone whom she told at the time. Do you have any response?

3. Our podcast presents evidence that 13th stepping can be harmful in all its forms, and that it is common in recovery communities and treatment facilities. As someone involved in the addiction treatment industry, do you view 13th stepping as an obstacle to recovery?

4. You have often said that The Granite House in Derry was the first sober home in New Hampshire. We haven’t found evidence to contradict that claim, but we also have found no evidence to support it. Do you have any evidence that proves Granite House was the first?
5. We have found, via multiple interviews and documents, that at times in 2020, Green Mountain Treatment Center was treating more clients than it was licensed for. One former employee said this made the work of caring for clients harder and told us that staff asked GRC leadership to slow down admissions. This source said you and other leaders wouldn’t listen. Do you have any comment? Were you aware that Green Mountain had exceeded its state-approved capacity?

a. A former employee says that — at this time in 2020 — Green Mountain began to feel like “a business” and “it’s not personalized… like [the client is] just a number.” Do you have any comment?

b. A different former employee recalls that in 2020 “there were 90 people in a group” and “[Eric was] still packing them in,” despite concerns from staff. Do you have any comment?

c. Some sources have said that, in your work in the treatment business, you prioritize profit over helping people. Do you have any comment?

6. Our reporting shows that you were in at least two relationships, publicly, with women who worked for you, even though a GRC employee handbook prohibited such relationships. Do you have any comment?

a. Do you regret having any sexual relationships during your time as CEO with any (now former) employees or clients of Granite Recovery Centers?

7. When I spoke on the phone with Lynsie Metivier, she told me you did not have blinds in your office. This was a detail Employee A had shared with me, but Metivier said my source was incorrect. Later, when you produced an affidavit from Metivier, she stated that the detail my source had gotten wrong was not the blinds, but the couch. Metivier said you did not have a couch in your office. It was your office, but you have never personally clarified the facts. Did you have blinds? Did you have a couch?

8. When Piers Kaniuka agreed to send a letter to NHPR expressing “regret,” you wrote in a Facebook post (since deleted), “When my lawyers told Piers’ lawyer that we were going to sue him for his defamatory statements, he negotiated a settlement.” What were the terms of that settlement?

9. Multiple sources I spoke with, as well as academic and government reports, say that the addiction treatment industry needs more “professionalization.” Among other things, this means it needs leaders with advanced degrees that are relevant to their work, such as administration, business or counseling. These same experts also believe that lived experience (i.e. one's own addiction experience) is extremely valuable, but not enough on its own. You do not have any degrees, and stated in a 2018 speech at GRC that “nobody is more qualified to help addicts besides recovered addicts.” One source, an experienced treatment industry executive, told me that this mindset is “like saying... ‘Hey, I'm a cancer survivor. Let me tell you what kind of chemotherapy you should have.'” Do you have any comment?

a. You are offering a training, “Learn How To Start Your Own ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER!” Do you believe your course is the only training a person would need before opening a facility? Or do you recommend particular degrees or other professional training? If so, what do you recommend?
10. Many sources in this podcast suggest that your legal responses to the original story were attempts to discredit sources, shut down any additional reporting by NHPR, and to scare additional women from coming forward. One source referred to it as “gaslighting.” Do you have any comment?

11. In the podcast, we will describe the outcome of the lawsuit you filed. Do you have any comment on its dismissal? Do you intend to appeal the decision to the New Hampshire Supreme Court?

12. In an interview, one source says that you are “gaslighting all of us. Like, he’s putting these things out there to split us all apart.” This source is referring to legal threats and letters — including Piers Kaniuka’s — as well as the lawsuit. Do you have any comment?

We welcome any responses by 5 p.m. EST on May 24, 2023.

Thanks for your time,

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