

# Office of Governmental Accountability State Contracting Standards Board

## *At a Glance*

*State Contracting Standards Board Members* - Claudia Baio, Chair, Thomas G. Ahneman, Charles W. Casella, Jr., Albert Ilg, Salvatore Luciano, Stuart Mahler, Jean Morningstar, Peter Reilly, Robert D. Rinker, Brenda Sisco, Roy Steiner

*Executive Director* – David L. Guay  
*Chief Procurement Officer* – Julia K. Lentini Marquis

*Established* - 2009

*Statutory authority* - Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec.'s 4e-1 to 4e-47

*Central office* – 999 Asylum Avenue, First Floor, Hartford, CT 06105

*Number of employees* - 2

*Recurring operating expenses* - \$302,263

*Organizational structure* – Fourteen member State Contracting Standards Board, Citizen and Vendor Advisory Council, Contracting Standards Advisory Council, Privatization Contract Committee, Contested Awards sub-committee.

## **Mission**

*Our mission is to ensure that state contracting and procurement processes reflect the highest standards of integrity, are transparent, cost effective, and consistent with the statutes and are conducted in the most efficient manner possible and all procurement should create economic opportunity for Connecticut residents and businesses to the greatest extent possible and consistent with applicable laws.*

## **Statutory Responsibility**

- Establishes the Board as the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement.
- Creates the position of Chief Procurement Officer, an experienced procurement professional to assist the Board in implementing its programs, policies and procedures.

- Requires each agency head to appoint a qualified Agency Procurement Officer to oversee all procurement activities of the agency and to serve as the liaison to the Chief Procurement Officer.
- Calls for the development and implementation of a standardized state procurement and project management education and training program, which certifies that agencies and staff are in compliance with the statutes and regulations.
- Sets forth the criteria and enforcement authority of the Board including the ability to restrict or eliminate the procurement authority of any state agency and the disqualification of any contractor, bidder or proposer for up to five years.
- Establishes a structural process that all state agencies shall follow when entering into a privatization agreement, including a cost benefit analysis.
- Creates a Contracting Standards Advisory Council of agency representatives to discuss state procurement issues and recommend improvements to procurement processes.
- Creates a Vendor and Citizen Advisory Panel of 15 citizens and vendor members to make recommendations to the Board regarding best practices in state procurement processes and project management, as well as other issues pertaining to stake holders in the system.
- Requires each of the State's constitutional officers (Secretary of the State, Comptroller, Treasurer and Attorney General) to adopt a code of procurement practices.
- Requires that the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch prepare a uniform procurement code applicable to contracting expenditures including any building, renovation, alteration or repairs.
- Recommends a timeline to redesign and streamline the repetitive, conflicting or obsolete provisions of law, policies and practices in the state procurement process.

## **Public Service**

The chief beneficiaries of the SCSB's work are three-fold: state contracting agencies, state contractors, and state taxpayers. By creating relationships with state contracting agencies, working to developing regulations and facilitating compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, state contracting agencies are better poised to uniformly produce procurements and let contracts, state contractors benefit from a standardized expectation of administration and procedure, and taxpayers benefit from the compliance of the state contracting agencies, which should eventually yield cost savings to the state. As the Board continues to develop robust policies and procedures, require reports from the state contracting agencies and host trainings and seminars, the Board should be able to see improvement in the results of the audits it will conduct. Additionally, annual reports should show improvement year to year.

## **Improvements/Achievements 2013-2014**

The Board's first Executive Director was appointed and a new office was established within the Office of Governmental Accountability in October of 2013. Filling this position has provided continuity and stability for the Board and a valuable resource for its members and he has enhanced the Board and the Chief Procurement Officer's understanding of state government, process and procedure.

With the successful hiring of the Chief Procurement Officer, the SCSB has been able to provide sound advice to and serve as a resource for state contracting agencies with questions regarding procurement and contract negotiations, all of which has facilitated compliance with

statutory requirements. Seeking the appointment of Agency Procurement Officers has provided the Board with the resources to know which practices are being implemented successfully statewide, and which practices are outdated and in need of revision.

Additionally, the SCSB is hosting a work group that includes representatives from OPM and DAS to review and consider statutory edits, which will enhance the Board's efficacy in future fiscal years.