



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

**CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD
OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS
165 Capitol Avenue, Suite 1200, Hartford, CT 06106**

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, <i>Chair</i>	Dena Castricone (virtual)
Charles Chiusano, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Cheryl Lipson
Mary Bigelow	Laura Schuyler (virtual)

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, <i>Executive Director</i>	Jennifer Montgomery, <i>Associate General Counsel</i>
Brian O'Dowd, <i>General Counsel</i>	Diane Buxo, <i>Assistant General Counsel (virtual)</i>
Mark Wasielewski, <i>Ethics Enforcement Officer</i>	Sam Rosengren, <i>Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer</i>
Marianne Sadowski, <i>Deputy General Counsel (virtual)</i>	Carol Langevin, <i>Associate Accounts Examiner</i>
Marc Crayton, <i>Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer</i>	Melissa Hamilton, <i>Paralegal Specialist (Legal Division) & Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board</i>

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the December 19, 2024 regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2024 regular meeting.

2. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report, noting the continued board vacancies, and her attendance at the ethics training sessions offered by OSE, on January 14, 2025, and January 15, 2025, for lobbyists and newly elected legislators.

Vice-Chair Chiusano, on behalf of the Committee formed to manage the performance evaluation of OSE's Executive Director (which committee is comprised of Vice-Chair Chiusano, Ms. Bigelow, and Ms. Lipson), presented a report of the Committee's recent meeting. The procedure (established in 2022) for the executive director's annual performance evaluation was reviewed and discussed, and the next steps to complete the 2024 evaluation were disclosed.

Executive Director Peter Lewandowski presented his goals and objectives for 2025 and requested that the Board approve them.

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the Executive Director's Goals and Objectives for 2025.

3. Executive Director Lewandowski provided an update on the vacant Board seats.
4. Associate Accounts Examiner Carol Langevin presented the following two (2) client lobbyist audit reports to the Board for approval. Neither audit contained findings:

- (i) TikTok Inc.

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for TikTok Inc.

- (ii) Hartford Healthcare. *(A representative from Hartford Healthcare was present at the meeting.)*

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Bigelow, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Hartford Healthcare.

The client lobbyist audit report for NTE Energy was postponed until next month's meeting.

5. Deputy Ethics Enforcement Officer Marc Crayton presented the Connecticut Strategy Group's communicator lobbyist audit report for approval. The audit contained no findings.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Vice-Chair Chiusano, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Connecticut Strategy Group.

6. General Counsel Brian O'Dowd delivered the Legal Division report.
7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Mark Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report, beginning with a request for a hearing officer to preside over the March 13, 2025 enforcement hearings pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act. Vice-Chair Chiusano volunteered, as well as Ms. Castricone, who will serve as an alternate hearing officer should any conflict arise for Mr. Chiusano.

Mr. Wasielewski also noted that the deadline to file all 2024 lobbyist financial disclosures was January 10, 2025. Following the deadline, less than 20 notices of hearing were issued to lobbyists who had not filed their respective reports by January 10 and who were penalized for late filings within the last three years. Approximately 160 registrants were extended a grace period to become compliant with filings.

8. Education & Communications Director Sarah Clark was absent due to illness, and Executive Director Lewandowski presented the Education & Communications report.
9. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his report, highlighting the following items:

- Thanking the OSE staff for collaborating on the successful execution of several initiatives during the first two weeks of the new year. (The client and communicator lobbyists' financial disclosure reports were due on January 10, 2025. Also, running concurrently, was the lobbyist biennium registration period. To date, there are about 1,000 registrants, and approximately \$600,000 has been collected in registration fees.)
- Concerning legislative matters, there are now two committees that are likely to have jurisdiction over OSE. The immediate plan is to obtain clarity on the extent of that jurisdiction and, once determined, submit OSE's previously prepared, and Board approved, legislative proposals with the committee of cognizance. In the interim, meetings are being scheduled with legislators to promote OSE's proposals.
- OSE will begin to prepare for the Statement of Financial Interests filing season.

10. Melissa Riley of Hartford Healthcare delivered a public comment regarding her interactions with the staff of OSE.

11. Adjournment

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Melissa Hamilton
Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board
Office of State Ethics

February 20, 2025

Date approved.

(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)