



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 JUNE 12, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, *Chair*
Charles Chiusano, *Vice-chair*
Karess Cannon (virtual)

Meaghan Cooper (virtual)
Kenneth Greenberg
Cheryl Lipson (virtual)

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

Peter Lewandowski, *Executive Director*
Brian O'Dowd, *General Counsel*
Mark Wasielewski, *Ethics Enforcement Officer*
Sarah Clark, *Director of Education & Communications*
Marianne Sadowski, *Deputy General Counsel* (virtual)

Jennifer Montgomery, *Associate General Counsel* (virtual)
Diane Buxo, *Assistant General Counsel* (virtual)
Sam Rosengren, *Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer*
Carol Langevin, *Associate Accounts Examiner*
Melissa Hamilton, *Paralegal Specialist* (Legal Division) &
Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the May 15, 2025 regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted five (5) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2025 regular meeting. New member (Mr. Greenberg) abstained from the vote.

2. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report, welcoming Mr. Kenneth Greenberg to the Board. She noted that with Mr. Greenberg's appointment, the Board is at full complement. Further, Chair Cook made comments concerning future meetings, and, on behalf of the Board, she expressed gratitude to Executive Director Lewandowski, General Counsel O'Dowd, and the Legal Division for their work managing OSE's proposals and interests during the recent legislative session.
3. Associate Account Examiner Langevin presented a brief overview of the audit process for the Board. She then presented, for the Board's approval, **CT Coalition for Retirement Security's** client lobbyist audit report.

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 CT Coalition for Retirement Security.

4. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report.
5. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report. The Board was reminded that Ms. Castricone will serve as the UAPA hearing officer in July, and that Ms. Schuyler will serve as an alternate hearing officer.

Mr. Wasielewski further highlighted the following:

- The Probable Cause hearing scheduled for June 5th and 6th was cancelled.
 - The Division concluded the first quarter lobbyist initiatives and reported that it collected \$1,790 in penalties.
 - The Division is currently addressing untimely filings of Statements of Financial Interests (SFIs). Seventeen Notices of Hearing were issued (with nine matters settled or dismissed for good cause), and \$140 in penalties were collected.
6. Education & Communications Director Clark presented the Education & Communications report, highlighting from the written report that (a) the scheduling of trainings continues into the summer and fall, both in-person and remote, (b) timely and professional media responses were issued, and (c) she connected with the regulated community via Newsletters. She shared plans to redesign the ethics training presentation and looks forward to launching the new online training module. Lastly, Ms. Clark noted, in response to the Executive Director's request, that OSE's website will undergo updates to feature Board Meeting records from prior years, and not only records of the last twelve months.

Chair Cook announced that the Board will receive ethics training during its July meeting.

7. Executive Director Lewandowski presented his report, and welcomed, on behalf of OSE staff, the newest board member, Mr. Greenberg. He also addressed the following items:
 - Budget. The state budget was formally approved by the General Assembly, including OSE's budget for the next biennium. The signing of the budget by the Governor is the next step in the process.
 - COGEL. Mr. Lewandowski provided an overview of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) and explained OSE's involvement in the organization. He reminded the Board of COGEL's offerings throughout the year and encouraged members and staff to participate in its events.
8. Mr. Lewandowski then presented the final legislative update for the 2025 regular session, noting that OSE's legislative proposals, **HB 6931** and **SB 1296**, which originated in the Government Oversight Committee, were not passed by either the House or the Senate. However, **SB 1430**, *an Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Office of State Ethics for Revisions to the State Code of Ethics*, a bill raised by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, which duplicates

OSE's requests for Conflicts and SFI provision changes, was passed in the Senate, but did not advance in the House. Concerning the two other bills raised by the GAE Committee relating to ethics, **SB 1227** and **HB 6848**, **SB 1227** passed the Senate, but did not advance in the House (a similar result as last year session), and **HB 6848** did not advance at all. Other bills of relevance to OSE and the Code of Ethics did not gain traction.

9. Executive Director Lewandowski presented updates to OSE's internal ethics policy and outside employment policy.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve the updates to OSE's internal ethics policy and outside employment policy.

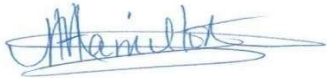
10. Chair Cook presented the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board policies and requested volunteers to form a subcommittee to manage the review of the policies and the proposed changes. Ms. Cannon, Mr. Chiusano, and Mr. Greenberg volunteered.

11. Chair Cook noted that no members of the public were present (either in-person or virtually) to provide public comment. She further noted that no executive or closed sessions were required.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Greenberg, the Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

July 17, 2025
Date approved.
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)