



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 FEBRUARY 19, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, <i>Chair</i>	Cheryl Lipson
Charles Chiusano, <i>Vice-chair</i> (virtual)	Kevin Profit
Meaghan Cooper (virtual)	Laura Schuyler (virtual)
Kenneth Greenberg	

The following staff members of the OSE were present:

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

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Regular meeting were presented to the Board for approval.

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Mr. Profit, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting.

2. The Minutes of the January 15, 2026 special meeting of the Strategic Plan Subcommittee were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Chair Cook, with Ms. Cooper abstaining, the Strategic Plan Subcommittee voted two (2) to zero (0) to approve the Minutes of its January 15, 2026 Special Meeting.

3. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report.

4. Executive Director Lewandowski presented two (2) client lobbyist audit reports, prepared by former Associate Accounts Examiner Carol Langevin, to the Board for approval:

- (i) Partnership for America's Health Care Future Action

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Partnership for America's Health Care Future Action.

- (ii) Mastercard

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Greenberg, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for Mastercard.

5. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Petition for Declaratory Ruling submitted by Matthew Anthony Elliott for the Board's consideration. The Board denied the petition on the grounds that it has no jurisdiction over the subject matter.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Profit, the Board voted seven (7) to zero (0) to deny the Petition for Declaratory Ruling by Matthew Anthony Elliott.

6. Mr. O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report, adding an update to his written report. He shared that the Division received a Petition for Advisory Opinion from Andrew Frank, the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's (DEEP) newly hired Deputy Commissioner. Further, he reminded the Board of the matter he discussed at last month's meeting, where he rendered an informal staff opinion, because time was of the essence, involving the outside professional and private interests of a candidate for the Deputy Commissioner position at DEEP and whether those interests pose a conflict as to the position for which he is seeking. At the time of the informal staff opinion, the candidate informed Mr. O'Dowd that if he was offered and accepted the position, he would request a formal Board opinion. Mr. O'Dowd anticipates the Board receiving Mr. Frank's Petition and a draft advisory opinion for consideration at its next scheduled meeting on March 19, 2026.
7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski requested a volunteer to serve as the hearing officer for hearings scheduled for April 9, 2026, under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA), and Ms. Schuyler volunteered. Mr. Wasielewski reminded the Board that Mr. Profit is scheduled to serve as hearing officer for UAPA hearings scheduled for March 12, 2026.

In addition, Mr. Wasielewski presented the following highlights from the Enforcement Division:

- Concerning the Division's enforcement of the late filings of client lobbyists' combined third and fourth quarter financial disclosures (ETH-2D), as well as communicator lobbyists' annual financial disclosures (ETH-2A), which were due by January 10, the Division has resolved 29 matters and collected penalties in the amount of \$2,810.00. Currently, 24 matters remain open and are scheduled to be heard at the March 12, 2026 UAPA hearing, if not resolved.
 - Over 20 background checks have been requested and completed by Paralegals Hamilton and Hurry over the last month.
8. Education & Communications Director Clark presented the Education & Communications report, reminding Board members that their 2025 Statements of Financial Interests (SFI) are due May 1, 2026. She also noted that the first system-generated email reminder of the season to SFI filers will occur in mid-March.

Ms. Clark reported that eleven personalized trainings were conducted in the past month. She thanked Executive Director Lewandowski for his support of her efforts to expand training to diverse audiences, conduct outreach to agencies overdue for live training, and continue strengthening partnerships with the regulated community to promote compliance with the Codes of Ethics.

9. Mr. Lewandowski presented his report, addressing the following items:

- **Board Vacancy.** He shared the update he received from the Office of the Governor that an offer was extended to a candidate, and they are awaiting the candidate's response.
- **Budget.** The Governor released his proposed adjustments to the fiscal year 2027 budget, recommending funding for existing agency operations as requested by OSE. The Governor's budget did not include the request to add another staff attorney to the OSE staff.
- **Lobbyist Audits.** Mr. Lewandowski and Ms. Clark have been communicating with the auditees that were selected for audit in 2026, to gather documentation so that delays and disruptions in carrying out audits are minimized once the position is filled.
- **Personnel Matters.** The Associate Accounts Examiner vacancy will be advertised within the next two days and posted for two weeks.
- **OSE's Audit.** OSE's audit is ongoing. Currently, the office is in the process of responding to requests for information and documents from state auditors.
- **OSE's Report to the Governor.** The OSE's report for calendar year 2025 operations was submitted to the Office of the Governor last week and is available on OSE's website. Mr. Lewandowski thanked the staff for their assistance in the endeavor.

10. Mr. Lewandowski presented a legislative update that the Board-approved legislative proposals were submitted to both the Government Administration and Elections Committee and the Government Oversight Committee, since both committees have cognizance over OSE. Meetings are being scheduled with co-chairs, ranking members, and legislative leadership to discuss these proposals, which are packaged in three bills concerning: (1) Conflicts; (2) Nepotism; (3) SFI and the Board's Quorum Requirements.

11. Chair Cook invited public comments, but no one from the public was present to provide any comments. She further noted that while a Closed Session is not required, an Executive Session is necessary.

At 1:22 p.m., the Board exited the regular Board meeting, and Executive Director Lewandowski noted, and Chair Cook confirmed, that the Board will immediately adjourn the regular meeting following the end of the Executive Session.

12. Executive Session

At 1:24 p.m., the Board entered an Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of the Executive Director pursuant to General Statutes § 1-200 (6) (A).

The following Board members were present for the Executive Session:

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

Cheryl Lipson
Kevin Profit

Meaghan Cooper (virtual)
Kenneth Greenberg

Laura Schuyler (virtual)

No OSE staff members were present for the Executive Session.

At 1:43 p.m., the Board exited the Executive session and then adjourned the regular Board meeting, with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

March 19, 2026

Date approved.
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)