



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 JULY 16, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2026.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, *Chair*

Charles Chiusano, *Vice-chair*

Karess Cannon (virtual)

Meaghan Cooper

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, *Assistant General Counsel*

Jennifer Montgomery, *Associate General Counsel*
(virtual)

Jillian Wyrebek, *Associate Accounts Examiner*

Melissa Hamilton, *Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board & Paralegal Specialist, Legal Division*

Malissa Hurry, *Paralegal Specialist, Enforcement Division*
(virtual)

Alyssa Boggis, *Intern*

Elliot Shani, *Intern*

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The Minutes of the June 18, 2026 regular Board meeting were presented for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Greenberg, the Board voted six to zero to approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2026 regular meeting.

2. The Minutes of the June 18, 2026 Strategic Plan Subcommittee regular meeting were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Cooper, the Strategic Plan Subcommittee voted four to zero to approve the Minutes of its June 18, 2026 regular meeting.

3. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report. To form the Nominations Committee, she requested two volunteers to serve on the committee. Ms. Lipson and Mr. Greenberg volunteered. Executive Director Lewandowski will serve on the committee as an ex-officio member. Further, Chair Cook noted that she and Vice-chair Chiusano are interested in continuing to serve as Chair and Vice-chair, respectively.

4. Associate Accounts Examiner Jillian Wyrebek presented two client lobbyist audit reports to the Board for approval:

(i) BeFoundation

On the motion of Vice-Chair Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Greenberg, the Board voted six to zero to approve the audit report for BeFoundation.

(ii) CT Chapter American College of Physicians

On the motion of Ms. Lipson, seconded by Vice-chair Chiusano, the Board voted six to zero to approve the audit report for CT Chapter American College of Physicians.

5. Assistant General Counsel Sadowski presented Draft Advisory Opinion 2026-3, in reply to the Petition submitted by Angel Quiros. In his petition, Mr. Quiros, a former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC), asked whether he may, within one year of leaving his state office, accept employment with a DOC contractor, without running afoul of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (Code), and whether the Code places any limitations on his "future activities" on the post-state employer's behalf. Ms. Sadowski recommended that the Board approve the draft opinion, which concludes that the Code does not prohibit Mr. Quiros from accepting the proposed post-state employment, if he abides by the Code's other post-state employment provisions.

Mr. Quiros addressed the Board, thanking Attorney Buxo and the Board for considering and approving his petition.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Vice-Chair Chiusano, the Board voted six to zero to approve Draft Advisory Opinion 2026-3, Petition submitted by Angel Quiros.

6. General Counsel O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report. He briefly discussed a complex informal staff opinion that the Division handled and provided a status on the draft advisory opinion addressing whether it is permissible for family members to work within the same state agency.
7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division report. He provided the following updates to the previously submitted written Enforcement Division report:
- Concerning Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) hearings: three Statements of Financial Interests matters were continued to the September hearing calendar; and nine client lobbyists were issued notices for hearings in September due to the late filing of their second-quarter financial disclosures.
 - The Division looks forward to working with Executive Director Lewandowski on the upcoming interviews for the Division's staff attorney vacancy.

Mr. Wasielewski sought a hearing officer to preside over the September 10, 2026 UAPA hearings, and Ms. Cooper volunteered.

8. Education & Communications Director Sarah Clark presented the Education & Communications report. In addition to the written report she previously submitted, Ms. Clark shared some related tasks she is currently undertaking in advance of the October 1, 2026 changes to the Code's gift limits for restricted donors. She further notes that our interns have provided extensive assistance in conducting research

on other jurisdictions, both in the United States and outside, on their processes for disclosure, transparency and other topics relevant to ethics in government.

In reply to Chair Cook's questions, interns Alyssa and Elliot provided an overview of the work they have completed and lessons learned. Both Alyssa and Elliot also shared with Vice-chair Chiusano that the work experience at OSE has been interesting and rewarding, and that the staff has been welcoming to their ideas and insights.

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

- **Personnel Matters.** The Board vacancy was discussed. To date, 34 applications have been submitted for the vacant staff attorney position in the Enforcement Division. The posting is scheduled to close tomorrow.
- **Nominations Committee.** Mr. Lewandowski shared next steps with the subcommittee members.
- **Audit.** The report of OSE's audit will be released on July 22, 2026. Once received, Mr. Lewandowski plans to distribute it to the Board.
- **Annual Board & Staff Luncheon.** To be held on September 17, 2026, at noon.

Lastly, Mr. Lewandowski expressed special thanks to the interns, as their internship will end before the Board's next meeting.

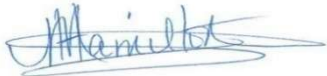
10. Public comments were requested, but none was provided. It was further noted that neither a Closed Session nor an Executive Session is required.

11. Adjournment

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted six to zero to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

August 20, 2026

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