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 OCTOBER 15, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board (Board) of the Office of State Ethics (OSE) held a Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2026.

Chair of the Board, N. Beth Cook, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

N. Beth Cook, *Chair*
Charles Chiusano, *Vice-chair*
Karess Cannon (virtual)
Meaghan Cooper (virtual), joined at 1:13 p.m.
Kenneth Greenberg (virtual)
Cheryl Lipson (virtual)
Kevin Profit (virtual)
Laura Schuyler (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* (virtual)
Jennifer Montgomery, *Associate General Counsel*
Diane Buxo, *Assistant General Counsel* (virtual)
Jillian Wyrebek, *Associate Accounts Examiner*
Ann Morgan, *Information Technology Analyst III* (virtual)
Alaaeldin Ali, *Information Technology Analyst III*
Malissa Hurry, *Paralegal Specialist, Enforcement Division* (virtual)
Melissa Hamilton, *Clerk of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board* / *Paralegal Specialist, Legal Division* (virtual)

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The Minutes of the September 17, 2026 regular Board meeting were presented for approval.

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2026 regular meeting.

2. The Minutes of the September 17, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Strategic Plan Subcommittee were presented to the subcommittee members for approval.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Cannon, the Strategic Plan Subcommittee voted three to zero to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2026 regular meeting.

3. Chair Cook presented the chairperson's report, including a status update on the Strategic Plan Subcommittee's work.

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

(i) Center for Human Development

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the audit report for Center for Human Development.

(ii) Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services

On the motion of Vice-chair Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Greenberg, the Board voted seven to zero to approve the audit report for Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services.

5. General Counsel O'Dowd presented Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2026-4, Petition from Joseph Aresimowicz, chair of the State Marshal Commission. In his petition, Mr. Aresimowicz inquired as to the status of Connecticut state marshals under the Code of Ethics for Public Officials (Code) in light of some recent statutory changes involving state marshals. Mr. O'Dowd recommended that the Board approve the draft opinion, which concludes that the 2025 legislative changes to the state marshal statutes did not alter the conclusions in Advisory Opinion No. 2002-1, meaning that state marshals remain subject to the Code—not as "Public officials" or "State employees"—but only as independent contractors when hired by the state to perform their statutory duties.

   Representatives from the State Marshal Association addressed the Board, informing the Board that they had no concerns and agreed with the opinion.

On the motion of Mr. Greenberg, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted eight to zero to approve Draft Advisory Opinion No. 2026-4.

   Ms. Cooper joined the meeting at 1:13 p.m., during the discussion of Draft Advisory Opinion 2026-4.

6. Mr. O'Dowd presented the Legal Division report.

7. Ethics Enforcement Officer Wasielewski presented the Enforcement Division (Division) report. He informed the Board that no hearing officer is required at this time because, as is customary, no Uniform Administrative Procedure Act (UAPA) hearings are held in December. In addition, he reminded the Board that Mr. Greenberg volunteered to serve as the Hearing Officer for the November 12, 2026 UAPA hearings.

   Furthermore, Mr. Wasielewski provided the following updates:

   - The Division concluded its enforcement of the client lobbyist second-quarter financial disclosure initiatives and collected a total fine of $875.

   - Concerning Statements of Financial Interests (SFI), the Division participated in a UAPA hearing in Docket No. 2026-11 UP on September 10, 2026, where Ms. Cooper presided as the Hearing Officer. The SFI initiatives have now concluded with the Division collecting $425 in fines.

   - Currently, there are no UAPA hearings scheduled. The next lobbyist financial disclosure deadline is January 10, 2027, when both client lobbyists' and communicator lobbyists' financial disclosures are due. The Division will resume its enforcement initiative after these deadlines.

8. Education & Communications Director Clark presented the Education & Communications report, highlighting the following items from her written report:

   - Resource updates and communications on the changes to the Code of Ethics effective October 1, 2026 for the public and regulated communities.

   - The increase in requests, generating 20 Code of Ethics trainings for the office to perform over the next month.

9. Executive Director Lewandowski introduced potential legislative proposals for feedback. He plans to formally present the proposals with full language at the November or December meeting for the Board's consideration and approval.

10. Mr. Lewandowski presented the Executive Director report, focusing on the following matters:

   - **Strategic Plan.** OSE has commenced the application process for funding (through the Bonding Commission) for filing systems upgrade, which is a large component of the OSE's next strategic plan.

   - **Personnel Update.** Interviews for the vacant staff attorney position in the Enforcement Division have concluded.

   - **Workspace Expansion.** Meetings with vendors and the Department of Administrative Services facilities staff to discuss the addition of a workstation in the Enforcement Division were held, and installation of the workstation is scheduled to occur over the next few months.

11. Public comments were requested and provided. With no need for either a Closed Session or an Executive Session, the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

12. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

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

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