



STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

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RETIRED OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE LISA SECONDO FINED \$5,000

Secondo created an \$80,000 temporary retiree position for herself

Former Office of Policy and Management (OPM) Policy Development Coordinator Lisa Secondo of Cheshire, CT paid a \$5,000 civil penalty for violating the Code of Ethics by using her state position to create an \$80,000 temporary worker position in a proposed grant for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) that she intended to fill upon her retirement from state service.

As the Policy Development Coordinator working in the Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division of OPM, Ms. Secondo was responsible for securing federal Justice Assistance Grants on behalf of the state and administering such funding to state and local agencies.

In 2018, Ms. Secondo submitted a grant proposal for approximately \$900,000, including over \$80,000 for a temporary worker position, to fund opioid treatment projects at DMHAS. Ms. Secondo did not disclose that she was the intended beneficiary of the proposed temporary position to her superior and did not have permission or instructions to include such a position.

According to the stipulation and consent order, by drafting and submitting a grant proposal that included future employment and benefits for herself, Ms. Secondo violated Section 1-84 (c) of the Code which states a public official or state employee is prohibited from using her position to obtain personal financial gain. By failing to disclose her financial interest in the grant, she also violated Section 1-86(a), which requires a state employee with a potential conflict of interest in a matter in which she is taking action to disclose in writing the matter and the nature of the conflict.

Ms. Secondo retired from state service in August, 2018. She ultimately never filled the position and received no benefits as a result of her conduct.

“State employees who are planning to retire must be aware that they may not take actions in their state capacities that will create new economic opportunities for themselves once they leave state service,” said OSE Executive Director, Carol Carson.

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View: Stipulation and Consent Order – [Docket 2018-41](#)