



STATE of CONNECTICUT  
Office of Governmental Accountability  
State Contracting Standards Board

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**PRIVATIZATION CONTRACT COMMITTEE**

Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Location: *Virtual Only*

**Board Members In Attendance:**

Rochelle Palache, Chair of the State Contracting Standards Board  
Salvatore Luciano, Chair of the Privatization Contract Committee  
Lauren Gauthier  
James Marpe  
Brenda Sisco

**Staff In Attendance:**

Greg Daniels, Executive Director  
Samson Anderson, Research Analyst  
Aaron Felman, Staff Attorney  
Aleshia Hall, Administrative Assistant

**Also In Attendance:**

Adelita Orefice, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Health  
Nicholas Jakubowski, Assistant Chief-Operational Support Services, Dept. of Public Health  
Emily McEvoy, SIEU 1199  
Rebecca Harris, Department of Public Health  
Norma Schuberth, Department of Public Health  
Olive Tronchin  
Yadiris Vega  
Sandra Vermont-Hollis

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was not formally called to order.
  - a. Roll Call of Committee Members was not taken; however, Administrative Assistant Hall confirmed to Mr. Luciano that there was a quorum of Board members in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from November 1, 2024, Privatization Contract Committee Meeting was not referred to.
3. **Discussion of Department of Public Health Privatization Matter**

Mr. Luciano referred to the business case notice received from the Department of Public Health on January 17, 2025, that refers to a health and safety issue dating back to 2019.

DC Orefice explained the history of the issues, the effects of the covid pandemic, retirement cliff, backlog, and ARPA monies.

- In response to Mr. Luciano's request, she confirmed that they have exhausted the availability of Temporary Worker Retirees, which included exceptional extensions to three-years.

- In response to Mr. Marpe's inquiry, DC Orefice explained that complaints are triaged and addressed in order of severity and within established timelines.

In response to Ms. Gauthier's invitation:

- SIEU 1199 Union representative Emily McEvoy expressed opposition to proceeding with the privatization request. She believes Agency leadership should work with the union to resolve the issue.
- Rebecca Harris, Nurse for SIEU 1199, expressed that the proposed privatization request was not brought to the attention of the union prior to this meeting. Presently, the staff are only permitted to work ten additional hours per week at straight pay. She recommended removing the restrictions on hours limitations, holiday limitations, and overtime pay vs. straight time.
- Norma Schuberth, Nurse for SIEU 1199, referenced a document that she authored in 2021 which was not considered by the Administration that she would like to revisit.

Mr. Luciano clarified that there are \$700,000 in resources available to address this core government function and suggested that the DPH Administration meet with the Union to seek remedies and then return to this committee if remaining ARPA money exists that would involve privatization.

DC Orefice apologized for not working with the union on this issue to discuss possible solutions and agreed to meet to discuss the options available. She wants to continue to offer opportunities first to the staff before seeking other remedies. She recommended reporting back to the Privatization Committee in approximately six-weeks after they have learned if their agency will be affected by President Trump's activities on the federal level. Mr. Luciano agreed.

Ms. Gauthier shared that if a motion is to go before the State Contracting Standards Board, she would present it in a motion, without prejudice, as a core government function require a 2/3 majority vote to pass. She referenced provision under C.G.S. 4e-16q and will explore how that applies to federal ARPA funds.

Mr. Marpe explained that future consideration by this committee will require detailed analysis, with some degree of confidence, of how much overtime will be incurred and if that effort will sufficiently address the Agency's need.

Emily McEvoy will reach out to DC Orefice to coordinate the discussion.

DC Orefice concluded by sharing that the staff has really pulled together and worked hard to address this issue as a team effort.

#### **4. Adjournment:** Without motion, this meeting ended at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia Hall  
Administrative Assistant