



STATE of CONNECTICUT  
Office of Governmental Accountability  
State Contracting Standards Board

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**Regular Meeting**

**M I N U T E S**

Friday, January 9, 2026 - 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Location: 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT  
Conference Room G009F and *Virtual*

**In Attendance:**

Rochelle Palache, Chair (in person)

Roberto Fernandez (virtual)

Lauren Gauthier (virtual)

Al Ilg (virtual)

Salvatore Luciano (virtual)

Stuart Mahler (in person)

James Marpe (in person)

Brenda Sisco (in person)

Gregory Daniels, Executive Director (in person)

Samson Anderson, Research Analyst (virtual)

Aaron Felman, Staff Attorney (in person)

Aleshia Hall, Administrative Assistant (in person)

Carmen Hufcut, Trainer Specialist (in person)

Martiza Lopez, Accounts Examiner (in person)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Palache called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.
  - A. Roll Call of Board Members confirmed the attendance as noted above.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2025, SCSB Regular Meeting.  
A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by: James Marpe  
The motion was seconded by: Stuart Mahler  
The minutes were unanimously approved with abstentions from Rochelle Palache and Jean Morningstar
3. **Communications and Petitions**
  - A. Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations & Awards Subcommittee Report  
Chair Stuart L. Mahler: No report
  - B. Privatization Contract Committee Report  
Chair Salvatore C. Luciano: No report

C. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group – Chair Roberto Fernandez

i. Audit Work Group Report

Chair Roberto C. Fernandez shared that there is no report. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on January 21, 2026.

ii. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group Report – Budget Sub-Work Group

Nothing to report.

D. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman

i. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group Report

In the absence of Chair Ahneman, Executive Director Daniels reported:

1. Draft SCSB 2026 Legislative Proposal

Executive Director Daniels reviewed the details of the Legislative Proposal drafts that were distributed to the Board members in advance of this meeting:

- Legislative Proposal 1 – Prohibits a vendor from changing their name and continuing to do business with the State under a different name.
- Legislative proposal 2: SCSB Budget Process Provisions
- Prior Legislative Proposals:
  - Protected Class Impact Analysis in Privatization Business Cases
  - SCSB Budget Process Provisions
  - Bidder Rights Notice Requirements

As a member of the SRPP Work Group, Ms. Sisco shared that in years' past, the Board has pursued a multitude of legislative proposals in each legislative session. The Work Group believes that it is in the best interest of the Board to focus on a few key proposals in this year's short session. In future sessions, the Board can revisit prior proposals for consideration.

Mr. Luciano thanked Ms. Sisco for her report and confirmed that these important changes do not require a fiscal note. He also noted are not accompanied by a fiscal note. Chair Palache and Executive Director Daniels confirmed that when a date is set for legislative testimony it will be shared with the Board members and any support from Board members will be appreciated.

A motion to accept the Legislative Proposal drafts as presented to the Board was made by: Brenda Sisco

The motion was seconded by Stuart Mahler

The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

## 2) Rules of Practice

Staff Attorney Felman explained the amount of effort and expertise required to complete the agency's first draft Rules of Practice. In a brief overview, he shared that these Rules of Practice were developed and finalized with the SRPP Work Group. He thanked Executive Director Daniels for his expertise and input. Chair Palache thanked them, the SRPP Work Group and particularly Chair Ahneman for his efforts on completing this process.

A motion to adopt the Rules of Practice as written was made by: James Marpe

The motion was seconded by: Brenda Sisco

The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

- ii. Personnel Review Sub-Work Group  
Chair James S. Marpe: No Report.

## E. Training Work Group Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman

In the absence of Mr. Ahneman, Trainer Supervisor Hufcut shared a synopsis of the many training achievements and successes in 2025. In response to Mr. Marpe's inquiry, Trainer Specialist Hufcut confirmed that we have received inquiries from municipalities requesting procurement training opportunities. She hopes that there will be an opportunity to assist them and make our current library available to them in 2026. Mr. Luciano thanked her for her report.

## F. Sec. 4e-34 Subcommittee Report

Executive Director Daniels and Staff Attorney Felman have completed a preliminary draft of 4e-34 procedures. During the December 2025 meeting, he offered a March 2026 deadline for this project but was able to accomplish it much earlier than originally anticipated. Executive Director Daniels explained that the 4e-34 process is unlike any of our other processes. It was imperative for us to do our due diligence in exploring the intricacies of these hearing procedures prior to executing this draft.

Executive Director Daniels worked through a timeline for a normal 4e-34 process which requires incorporation of established USPA noticing requirements and timelines. Additionally, he and Staff Attorney Felman are working on creating an expedited process and the parameters to justify its use. He explained that an expedited process that takes UAPA into consideration requires approximately 105 days to complete. A regular process is anticipated to take approximately 150 days. Additionally, the Board members volunteering to be hearing officers for this process will require training. Executive Director Daniels looks forward to sharing the draft 4e-34 procedures at the next meeting of the SRPP Work Group.

Executive Director Daniels confirmed to Mr. Mahler that he is using our staff and all available resources to complete these procedures. Additionally, Executive Director Daniels has reached out to other agencies to attempt to identify and streamline a training

initiative for our Board members. Staff involved in these hearing processes will be pulled from their regular assignments to assist when necessary. The staff recognize the urgency of developing processes to move this administrative hearing process forward as quickly as possible. It is just important that it be done as properly and adequately as possible to reflect and adhere to the necessary standards.

Mr. Luciano referenced establishment of the 4e-34 committee. Executive Director Daniels reminded him that, at the request of Mr. Luciano, a subcommittee was voted on and established by this Board at the September 12, 2025 regular Board meeting. The subcommittee consists of Salvatore Luciano, Lauren Gauthier, Brenda Sisco, and Stuart Mahler.

Mr. Marpe confirmed that the subcommittee was formed in September but has not met. Meanwhile, Executive Director Daniels, Staff Attorney Felman and the staff have completed draft 4e-34 procedures that can now be shared with the subcommittees when they meet.

Chair Palache confirmed that the subcommittee was created at the September 12, 2025 meeting. Ms. Gauthier volunteered to serve as the Chair of the 4e-34 subcommittee.

**G. Staff Reports**

- i. Administrative and Operations – Gregory F. Daniels, Executive Director  
Executive Director Daniels referenced the agency's 2025 Annual Report that was disseminated to the Board members on January 2, 2026. There were no questions or discussion regarding the content of the report. Chair Palache recommended that it be brought to the Board for an approval vote at the next regular Board meeting.
- ii. Chief Procurement Officer – TBD

**4. Old Business**

**A. Chief Procurement Officer Search Update**

Mr. Marpe shared that there was a lot of interest in the position. The initial interviews have taken place, and the process is continuing. He looks forward to sharing more information at the next meeting. Chair Palache thanked Mr. Marpe and the members of the CPO Selection Committee for their efforts.

**B. Update on Office of Correctional Ombudsman (OCO) recommendation to suspend Inmates' Legal Assistance to Prisoners (ILAP) Contract with Bansley Law LLC. – Aaron I. Felman**

Staff Attorney Felman shared that he, Executive Director Daniels, and Aleshia Hall had a very productive meeting with a group from the Department of Correction that included the Deputy Commissioner, Legal Director, Assistant Legal Director and additional key staff. The DOC shared dialogue and written correspondence regarding their efforts to resolve this issue that included several meetings with the Bansley Law firm as well as the Correctional Ombud. One remedial action resulted that affected wording and data points.

It came down to a fundamental difference of opinion, but it was confirmed that there was no breach. Additionally, the original issues presented by the OCO involved a request for information that he has received.

Mr. Mahler referred to an earlier unrelated case. Attorney Felman explained that there was no impetus for us to review that case as it would not have made a difference in the outcome of this issue as there is no performance issue.

Mr. Luciano further explained that the four-year contract in question began on July 1, 2021, so it will expire in six months. DOC may choose to renew it at that time if they wish to. He reviewed the details in the information disseminated to the Board members by Executive Director Daniels and Attorney Felman and concurs with Attorney Felman regarding the outcome.

Mr. Fernandez asked if this issue correlated in any way to the change of administration in the Office of the Public Defender; Staff Attorney Felman confirmed that it did not.

5. **New Business:** Nothing to report.

6. **Opportunity for Citizens to Address the SCSB:** None

7. **Adjournment:** At the request of Chair Palache:

A motion to adjourn was made by at 11:15 a.m. was made by Brenda Sisco

The motion was seconded by James Marpe

The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia M. Hall  
Administrative Assistant