



## MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2025

*This information is being shared by Staff of the Office of Governmental Accountability (OGA)-SCSB for the information of the State Contracting Standards Board members:*

### A. Administration, Legislation, Legal and Miscellaneous:

1. Board Member changes during the month of March 2025:
  - a. On April 4, 2025, Executive Director Daniels was notified that on March 28, 2025, Roberto Fernando of North Franklin was appointed by Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter to the Board member vacancy formerly held by Daniel Rovero.
2. On April 11, 2025, the SCSB Board meeting took place. Video and meeting materials are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
3. The following legislative updates took place during April 2025:
  - a. S.B. No. 1499: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State Contracting Standards Board has been tabled for the Senate Calendar.
  - b. HB 7092: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee.
  - c. HB 7232: An Act Concerning Efforts to Streamline State Contracting was Referred to Office of Legislative Research and Office of Fiscal Analysis.
  - d. HB 7244: An Act Concerning State Contracting has been tabled for the House Calendar.
4. The following legislative actions took place during the month of April 2025:
  - a. The SCSB staff legislative team had a follow-up meeting with Rep. Blumenthal on April 7, 2025, regarding SB 1499 and OPM's concerns, which briefly discussed the SCSB's response and future collaboration, as necessary.
5. Regulations Development: Attorney Felman submitted a revised, initial draft of the Rules of Practice for the Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures ("SRPP") Work Group members to review. The SRPP Work Group began to discuss the initial draft at the SRPP Work Group meeting held on April 22, 2025. The SRPP Work

Group members offered additional suggestions and guidance for further revisions on the sections that were reviewed at the April 22, 2025 meeting. Ahead of the next SRPP Work Group meeting, Attorney Felman will send an additional revision with the SRPP Work Group members’ revisions requests on the initial Rules of Practice draft. Given the length of the draft, this review may take several months/meetings to finalize the review.

6. Budget:

- a. FY ’25: On March 21, 2025, at the request of the GAE Committee, Executive Director Daniels submitted a status of the SCSB FY ’25 budget and justification for the request for additional funding allocations for the current fiscal year. No additional budget information was received in April 2025.
- b. FY ’26 – ’27: On April 22, 2025, the Appropriations Committee put forth a budget that reflects SCSB’s original FY ’26 – FY ’27 biennium budget request submitted to OPM in August 2024.

**B. Compliance Audits:**

- 1. The Accounts Examiner, Maritza Lopez, continues to work with Training Specialist Carmen Hufcut to develop the audit procedures for presentation to the audit committee.
- 2. The SCSB staff would like to thank the DEEP team for their excellent collaboration and dedication in working with Training Specialist Carmen Hufcut to complete the recommended courses. Jacob Rocco has been a tremendous asset in achieving this goal for the SCSB team.
- 3. The SCSB staff provided extensive support to develop the audit process with Accounts Examiner Maritza Lopez. Attorney Felman conducted extensive legal research on relevant legal issues that were raised.
- 4. As of April 30, 2025, the status of each audit is shown in the following chart:

<b>Year 1 Contracting Agency Selection</b>					
<u>Agency</u>	<u># of contracts</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>	<u># of samples audited</u>	<u># of findings</u>	<u>Audit Status</u>
<b>Dept of Energy and Env. Prot.</b>	91	37,234,877	5	3	Report completed 11/15/2024; reviewed by Mr. Bertoline on 11/20/2024; approved by board 01/10/2025; additional approvals required; <b>Approved on 2/14/2025.</b>

<b>Dept of Social Services</b>	71	425,180,153	7	2	The Accounts Examiner started the audit on 10/2/2024. Six out of the 7 contracts have been completed, and as of 1/25/2025, there are 2 findings. Drafting Audit report 3/13/2025. <b>The report is still under review.</b>
<b>State IT Contracts</b>	2	30,000,000	2		This Group (buying code) is no longer used in CORE; received data 12/2/2024; <b>Audit has been reviewed, awaiting additional documentation.</b>
<b>OPM</b>	65	11,733,475	6	0	The data was received on 7/16/2024; the audit started on 10/1/2024; 4 of the 6 contracts have been completed, 2 of the 6 contracts fall under a BU Award; 3 findings as of 1/25/2025, after a thorough review. There are no findings in this audit. <b>Audit completed 3/3/2025. The report was sent for review to the committee on 3/7/2025 and 3/17/2025</b>
<b>State Service Contracts (DAS)</b>	518	8,519,755,864	<del>15</del> 8		Data was received on 12/2/2024, and the audit is continuing for review. After meeting with Mr. Bertoline, we decided to narrow down the contracts to eight. <b>So far, 3 out of 8 audits have been reviewed.</b>

5. The agencies listed below will be audited as of April 30, 2025. The auditing samples have been determined.

<b>Year 2 Contracting Agency Selection</b>					
<b><u>Agency</u></b>	<b><u># of contracts</u></b>	<b><u>Total (\$)</u></b>	<b><u># of samples audited</u></b>	<b><u># of findings</u></b>	<b><u>Audit Status</u></b>
<b>Dept of Administrative Svcs (DAS)</b>	543	\$1,817,965,406.27	4		Awaiting Documentation
<b>Department of Development Serv (DDS)</b>	434	\$7,324,399,958.35	4		Awaiting Documentation
<b>Mental Health &amp; Addiction Serv (MHA)</b>	1206	\$2,886,446,958.11	4		Awaiting Documentation

<b>State Dept of Education (SDE)</b>	398	\$167,852,974.70	4	<b>Documentation Received 4/4/2025.</b>
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**C. Training:**

1. The next meeting of the Training Work Group is scheduled for May 9, 2025.
2. The IACET Accreditation Application review is ongoing.
3. Trainer Specialist Carmen Hufcut continues to work with other state agencies.
  - a. This time, the Social Equity Council is conducting research regarding ethics training for public officials/staffers who work for state agencies governing adult-use cannabis and requested a meeting. Ms. Sarah Clark of the OSE recommended SCSB Trainer Specialists as a highly regarded and resourceful individual for consultation.
4. Trainer Specialist Hufcut continues to work with Accounts Examiner Lopez regarding Audit procedures.
  - a. They continue progressing the audit process, focusing on the auditing flow chart.
5. All 28 employees of DEEP have successfully completed the recommended courses within the mandated timeframe.
  - a. The SCSB staff wish to express my sincere gratitude for the support provided by Jacob Rocco from DEEP, which has rendered this collaboration exemplary. DEEP has effectively aligned with the compliance standards detailed in the SCSB audit findings, and I sincerely appreciate the effort that has contributed to this accomplishment.
6. The Training Plan has been updated to comply with accreditation standards and was discussed in the April 11, 2025, training meeting.
  - a. Several edits were recommended.
  - b. The plan name has been changed from Training Plan to Training Handbook.
7. The Internal Policies and Progress for Participants, which have been formulated to adhere to accreditation standards, will be addressed in the upcoming meeting of the Training Work Group on May 9, 2025. They will later be presented for approval by the Board.
  - a. Participants Registrations

- b. Participant Support System
  - c. Participant ID verification
  - d. Roles and Responsibilities of Maintaining Learner Records
  - e. Privacy and Information Policy
  - f. Professional Development Practice
8. Trainer Specialist Hufcut continues to work with the SCSB staff attorney, who will articulate regulatory proposals scheduled for discussion at the Training Work Group's meeting on May 9, 2025. Subsequently, these proposals will be submitted for approval to the Regulations Committee.
  9. Mr. Ahneman, Chair of the Training Work Group, requested that Trainer Specialist Hufcut create a training log-in for each of the Board members. During his report at the regular Board meeting, he will encourage Board members to complete the training and provide their input. Chair Palache will reach out to Board members to encourage participation.

**D. Committee, Subcommittee and Work Group Reports:**

1. **Audit/Data Analysis Work Group:**  
This work group did not meet in April 2025.
2. **Budget Sub-Work Group:**  
This sub-work group did not meet in April 2025.
3. **Privatization Contract Committee:**  
With Salvatore Luciano as Chair, on February 6, 2025, the Privatization Contract Committee met to discuss a potential privatization matter from the Department of Public Health. DPH requested that its matter be held pending further discussion with the 1199 Union leaders. We anticipate that DPH will follow up with the Privatization Committee in approximately six weeks. There is no update in April 2025.
4. **C.G.S. § 4e-36 Contested Solicitation and Awards Subcommittee:**
  - a. **Docket# CSA No. 25-001: Lighting Services Inc. Contest/Appeal of Department of Administrative Services Contract No. 24PSX0244 for Inspection, Testing, Repairs, Purchase of Emergency Lighting Systems & Exiting Signage.** The C.G.S. § 4e-36 Contested Solicitation and Awards Subcommittee (the “CSA Subcommittee”) met on April 15, 2025, to discuss the §

4e-36 appeal submitted by Lighting Services, Inc. (the “Bidder”). A Bidder’s representative was present, as well as Department of Administrative (“DAS”) procurement management personnel. The CSA Subcommittee ultimately denied the Bidder’s appeal. Attorney Felman assisted in preparing the CSA Subcommittee’s decision, along with Executive Director Greg Daniels. Executive Director Daniels sent the CSA Subcommittee’s written decision, along with a decision notice, to the Bidder on April 17, 2025, within the 30-day statutory timeline.

- b. **Docket #CSA No. 25-002: Torrco Contest/Appeal of Department of Administrative Services Contract Solicitation No. 24PSX0171 - Plumbing, HVAC and Penal Ware Equipment, Fixtures and Parts.** The CSA Subcommittee received an appeal from Torrco (via its retained counsel) on a separate matter. Torrco is a bidder/proposer who submitted a response to another DAS solicitation and was deemed nonresponsive. The CSA Subcommittee initially met on April 28, 2025, to discuss Torrco’s appeal. The CSA Subcommittee will hold a follow-up meeting on Monday, May 5, 2025, with a representative of Torrco and its legal counsel, as well as members of DAS procurement management. The matter seems to be squarely within the purview of the CSA Subcommittee.
- 5. Statutes, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures Work Group:**  
The Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures (“SRPP”) Work Group met on April 22, 2025, and discussed/reviewed Attorney Felman’s Rules of Practice initial draft. This review will be ongoing and likely last several meetings due to the length of the draft. Attorney Felman will continually update the draft as the review progresses and submit subsequent revisions before each meeting.
- 6. Personnel Review Sub-Work Group:**  
This sub-work group did not meet in April 2025.
- 7. Training Work Group:**  
The Training Work Group met on April 11, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this report, please direct your inquiries to: [Greg.Daniels@ct.gov](mailto:Greg.Daniels@ct.gov).

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Director  
Office of Governmental Accountability  
State Contracting and Standards Board