

Office of Governmental Accountability State Contracting Standards Board

At a Glance

DAVID L. GUAY, Executive Director
Julia K. Lentini Marquis, Chief Procurement Officer

State Contracting Standards Board Members - Claudia Baio, Chair, Thomas G. Ahneman, Alfred W. Bertoline, Bruce H. Buff, Charles W. Casella, Jr., Lawrence S. Fox, Albert Ilg, Donna Karnes, Salvatore Luciano, Stuart Mahler, Jean Morningstar, Robert D. Rinker, Brenda Sisco, Roy Steiner

Established - 2009

Statutory authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 4e-1 to 4e-47

Central office – 999 Asylum Avenue, First Floor, Hartford, CT 06105

Number of employees - 2

Recurring operating expenses - \$261,242

Organizational structure – Fourteen member State Contracting Standards Board, Citizen and Vendor Advisory Council, Contracting Standards Advisory Council, Privatization Contract Committee, Contested Awards sub-committee.

Mission

Our mission is to require that state contracting and procurement requirements are understood and carried out in a manner that is open, cost effective, efficient and consistent with State and Federal statutes, rules and regulations. (Adopted March 11, 2016)

Statutory Responsibility

- Establishes the Board as the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement.
- Creates the position of Chief Procurement Officer, an experienced procurement professional to assist the Board in implementing its programs, policies and procedures.
- Requires each agency head to appoint a qualified Agency Procurement Officer to oversee all procurement activities of the agency and to serve as the liaison to the Chief Procurement Officer.

- Calls for the development and implementation of a standardized state procurement and project management education and training program, which certifies that agencies and staff are in compliance with the statutes and regulations.
- Sets forth the criteria and enforcement authority of the Board including the ability to restrict or eliminate the procurement authority of any state agency and the disqualification of any contractor, bidder or proposer for up to five years.
- Establishes a structural process that all state agencies shall follow when entering into a privatization agreement, including a cost benefit analysis.
- Creates a Contracting Standards Advisory Council of agency representatives to discuss state procurement issues and recommend improvements to procurement processes.
- Creates a Vendor and Citizen Advisory Panel of 15 citizens and vendor members to make recommendations to the Board regarding best practices in state procurement processes and project management, as well as other issues pertaining to stake holders in the system.
- Requires each of the State's constitutional officers (Secretary of the State, Comptroller, Treasurer and Attorney General) to adopt a code of procurement practices.
- Requires that the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch prepare a uniform procurement code applicable to contracting expenditures including any building, renovation, alteration or repairs.
- Recommends a timeline to redesign and streamline the repetitive, conflicting or obsolete provisions of law, policies and practices in the state procurement process.

Public Service

The chief beneficiaries of the SCSB's work are three-fold: state contracting agencies, state contractors, and state taxpayers. By creating relationships with state contracting agencies, working to developing regulations and facilitating compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, state contracting agencies are better poised to uniformly produce procurements and let contracts, state contractors benefit from a standardized expectation of administration and procedure, and taxpayers benefit from the compliance of the state contracting agencies, which should eventually yield cost savings to the state. As the Board continues to develop robust policies and procedures, require reports from the state contracting agencies and host trainings and seminars, the Board should be able to see improvement in the results of the audits it will conduct. Additionally, annual reports should show improvement year to year.

Improvements/Achievements for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

- Developed the framework and infrastructure for a training certification program under C.G.S. 4e-5, planning to launch in early 2017.
- Worked closely with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on the training certification program and hosting ad hoc trainings.
- Worked with the National Association of State Procurement Officials to consider best practices and national standards in training and certification programs.
- Requested and reviewed Cost-Effectiveness Evaluations from all state contracting agencies to look for privatization contracts for review.
- Met with several agencies to discuss the legal distinctions between a Cost-Benefit Analysis and a Cost-Effectiveness Evaluation.

- Designed, developed and hosted training for 50 agency procurement officers in December 2015.
- Organized and hosted 8 ad hoc trainings with over 400 registrants.
- Designed and implemented a discussion forum for state procurement employees to discuss best practices and seek assistance from one another.
- Served as a resource for all state procurement employees and contractors, fielding dozens of phone calls from state employees about best practices, ethics in contracting and procurement, and general business acumen.
- Presented to the GAE work group of the Appropriations Committee of the CGA.
- Participated on the Governor's Non-profit Cabinet's Contract Reform and Payment Reform work groups.
- Attended the Active Shooter Training held by DESPP.
- Creatively resourced temporary clerical staff to assist with a number of projects.
- Revamped the website and are undertaking another revamp to bring our site into conformance with ct.gov.
- Participated with the Purchase of Service Work Group hosted by OPM to discuss topics related to contracting and procurement for health and human service agencies.
- Met with staff from the University of Hartford's Construction Services unit to determine if a partnership could be useful to the parties.
- Entered in to an MOU with DAS for the support services required to keep the SCSB running smoothly.
- Worked collaboratively with BEST to ensure IT needs of the SCSB are being met.