



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

### **CITIZEN'S ETHICS ADVISORY BOARD OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106**

#### **MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2018 REGULAR MEETING**

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board ("Board") of the Office of State Ethics ("OSE") held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 16, 2018, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

Chair Dena Castricone called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### **The following Board members were present:**

Dena Castricone, Chair  
Charles F. Chiusano  
Beth Cook  
Jason Farrell

Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair  
Richard Lang  
Cheryl Lipson  
Nichelle Mullins

#### **The following staff members of the OSE were present:**

Carol Carson, Executive Director  
Barbara Housen, General Counsel  
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer  
Nancy Nicolescu, Director of Education & Communications  
Brian O'Dowd, Deputy General Counsel

Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel  
Mark Crayton, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer  
Sean McCabe, Legal Intern  
Kelly Petit, Legal Intern  
Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board

The following topics were addressed during the meeting:

1. The minutes of the July 19, 2018 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board for approval.
2. **On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2018 Regular Meeting.**
3. Chair Castricone expressed her appreciation for the quality and amount of work the staff completes each month. She requested volunteers to serve on the Nominations Sub-Committee. Mr. Chiusano and Mr. Farrell volunteered. They will meet by conference call prior to the next meeting and provide nominations for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Ms. Castricone reported that she was

unable to serve as Hearing Officer for the September 13 UAPA hearings. Mr. Chiusano volunteered to serve. Ethics Enforcement Officer Jones reported that nine lobbyists, three marshals and one filer of a statement of financial interests have received notices of hearing.

4. The Board discussed Policy No. 1: Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board Organization.

**On the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Farrell, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to amend Policy No. 1 as follows:**

- In Item 2, change "one year" to "two years"
- In Item 4, change "April" to "July"
- In Item 5, change "August" to "September"
- In Item 6, change "August" to "September"

5. General Counsel Housen recommended that the Board extend the time to respond to the Petition for an Advisory Opinion (AO 2018-3) submitted by Raul Pino, Commissioner, Department of Public Health to September 30, 2018.

**Following discussion and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to a extend the time to respond to the Petition for an Advisory Opinion from Mr. Pino to September 30, 2018.**

6. General Counsel Housen recommended that the Board approve the Petition for an Advisory Opinion submitted by Attorney Donald R. Seifel, Jr. on behalf of his client Dr. Julian Ford.

**Following discussion and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Mr. Johnston, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to respond to the Petition for an Advisory Opinion from Attorney Seifel.**

7. General Counsel Housen presented the Legal Division Report.
8. Director of Education and Communications Nicolescu presented the Education and Communications Reports.
9. Ethics Enforcement Officer Jones presented the Enforcement Division Report.
10. Mr. Jones presented the audit report for The Access Agency, Inc. There were two adverse findings in this matter.

**On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Chiusano, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to approve the audit report for The Access Agency, Inc.**

11. Executive Director Carson reported on the status of the budget and a potential deficit due to a multiple day hearing being scheduled. The cost per day of a hearing is approximately \$3,000. Ms. Carson discussed the audit of Fiscal Years 2012, 2013 and 2014, which is scheduled to be released by the end of August. The audit of Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 has begun. Finally, she informed the Board that she, Mr. Jones and Mr. Wasielewski are named defendants in a federal lawsuit filed

by Charmane Thurmand. All three employees are being represented by the Office of the Attorney General.

12. Ms. Castricone thanked legal interns Sean McCabe and Kelly Petit for their work this summer.

**On the motion of Mr. Johnston, seconded by Mr. Lang, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy and negotiations pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200 (6) (B) and 1-210 (b) (4) in the pending court appeals of Advisory Opinion 2017-2 and Thurmand v. UConn et al. (Case Number 3:18-CV-01140-JCH).**

The following Board members were present for the Executive Session:

Dena Castricone, Chair	Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair
Charles F. Chiusano	Richard Lang
Beth Cook	Cheryl Lipson
Jason Farrell	Nichelle Mullin

The following staff members were present for the Executive Session:

Carol Carson, Executive Director	Mark Crayton, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
Barbara Housen, General Counsel	Sean McCabe, Legal Intern
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer	Kelly Petit, Legal Intern
Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel	Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board
Brian O'Dowd, Deputy General Counsel	

**Following the Board returning to public session and on the motion of Mr. Chiusano, seconded by Ms. Cook, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy and negotiations regarding settlement counter-offers, pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200 (6) (B) and 1-210 (b) (4).**

Mr. Chiusano left the meeting prior to the Board entering Executive Session.

The following Board members were present for the Executive Session:

Dena Castricone, Chair	Richard Lang
Beth Cook	Cheryl Lipson
Jason Farrell	Nichelle Mullin
Kevin Johnston, Vice-Chair	

The following staff members were present for the Executive Session:

Carol Carson, Executive Director	Mark Crayton, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
Barbara Housen, General Counsel	Sean McCabe, Legal Intern
T.J. Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer	Kelly Petit, Legal Intern
Peter Lewandowski, Associate General Counsel	Alaaeldin Ali, Temporary Clerk of the Board
Brian O'Dowd, Deputy General Counsel	

Following the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in public session.

**On the motion of Mr. Farrell, seconded by Ms. Lipson, the Board voted eight (8) to zero (0) to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Carson".

Carol Carson  
Executive Director  
Office of State Ethics

Date approved  
(By the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board)