

Minutes

March 29, 2007

The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board of the Office of State Ethics held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2-A, 2nd floor, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson at 1:00 p.m.

The following members of the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board were in attendance:

- Patricia T. Hendel, Chairperson
- Robert Worgaftik, Vice Chairperson
- Scott A. Storms, Board Member
- Enid Oresman, Board Member
- Dennis Riley, Board Member
- Jaclyn Bernstein, Board Member
- Sister Sally J. Tolles, Board Member
- Rebecca Doty, Board Member

The following staff members of the Office of State Ethics were in attendance:

- Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director
- Meredith Trimble, Education Director
- Christine V. Vieira, Office Assistant/Clerk
- TJ Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Patrick Lamb, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Barbara Housen, General Counsel
- Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel
- Mark Wasielewski, Assistant Ethics Enforcement Officer
- Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel

***The Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board requested that all motions and votes taken be bolded and underlined.

***Minutes are briefly summarized. Tapes are available to the public for the entirety of Board meetings.

The following topics were discussed during the meeting (numbers do not correspond with agenda):

1. Minutes for the February 27, 2007 meeting were presented to the Board. **Patricia Hendel, Chairperson, entertained a motion for discussion of the approval of the minutes. The motion was moved by Board member Dennis Riley and seconded by Vice Chairperson Robert Worgaftik.** Board member Enid Oresman requested the amendment of item number 3 with the addition of “see attached”. **Chairperson Hendel entertained the motion to amend the minutes. The motion was moved by Board member Enid Oresman and seconded by Board member Jaclyn Bernstein. The vote was unanimous in favor with all eight (8) Board members approving the minutes with amendments.**
2. Prior to the amended draft response to RAO 4704 being presented, Chairperson Hendel recused herself from addressing this topic due to her having been appointed by the Speaker of the House, James Amann. Board member Rebecca Doty recused herself from addressing this topic due to her husband being the former chair of the MS Society and the fact that she is still an active member of the MS Society. This portion of the meeting was then turned over to Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik who requested that members of the public raise any questions or comments pertaining to the agenda items. General Counsel, Barbara Housen, presented a request to postpone letter pertaining to RAO 4704 from Donald Williams, Senate President Pro Tempore, Martin Looney, Senate Majority Leader, James A. Amann, Speaker of the House, and Christopher G. Donovan, House Majority Leader. **Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik entertained a motion to grant the request to postpone RAO 4704 until the next Board meeting on Thursday, April 26th, 2007 and to require that all written statements, arguments, or briefs be filed in this matter by April 13, 2007. The motion was moved by Board member Scott Storms. The vote was taken with five (5) Board members in favor of the postponement and one (1) Board member, Enid Oresman, not in favor. Chairperson Hendel and Board member Doty recused themselves from the vote.** Sister Sally Tolles requested that all filings received by the office on or before April 13, 2007 pertaining to this opinion be forwarded to each Board member for review.
3. Peter Lewandowski, Assistant General Counsel, spoke on the draft response to a request for Advisory Opinion No. 4722. In that request, the Director of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council) presented several conflict of interest questions involving Council members and asked whether, by serving on the Council, the members have conflicts of interest under the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I General Statutes (Code of Ethics) when receiving private, state, or federally funded services and supports. John Flanders, Chairperson of the Council, attended the meeting and presented new facts for this opinion. In light of these new facts, the Board decided, through a vote, to reconsider and postpone this opinion until the April Board meeting. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to postpone the advisory opinion due to the new facts presented in this Board meeting. The motion was moved by Board member Riley and seconded by Board member Sister Sally Tolles. The vote was unanimous with all eight (8) members present voting in favor of postponement,**
4. Cynthia Isales, Assistant General Counsel, spoke to a draft response to a request for advisory opinion Revolving Door. In this request, submitted by an Assistant General Counsel with the OSE, asked how the post-state employment restriction found in General Statutes § 1-84b(b) applies to an individual who has worked for more than one department or agency in his last year of state employment. **Board member Storms entertained a motion to approve advisory opinion Revolving Door. The motion was moved by Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik and seconded by Board member Oresman. The vote was unanimous with all eight (8) Board members present voting in favor of the approval of advisory opinion Revolving Door.**
5. Benjamin Bycel, Executive Director, presented his Director’s report for the Board. The following matters contained in the report were presented:

- a. The OSE is close to being fully-staffed with a new Human Resource person beginning toward the end of April. Interviews will begin for the Special Investigator position at the end of April as well. The OSE is still assessing the work that would be dedicated to the IT position.
 - b. The lobbyist online filing system has been working well with great thanks to Iris D'Oleo-Edwin of the OSE staff and David Noell our IT consultant. Ted Dobieski has been hired as our outside IT consultant and will work until approximately mid-June. Other IT projects that are being considered are the SFI project being online, data-mining for the Enforcement division, research, and assistance with the OSE webpage.
 - c. Legislative efforts have continued with Peter, Crissy, and Bycel attending various meetings of the GAE committee. Chairperson Hendel, Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik, and I attended a meeting with Representative Caruso tending to the Substitute language of Bill No. 7002 recommended by Senator Slossberg.
 - d. Educational training continues with a full schedule reaching over 600 state employees. The interactive, online ethics training module has been completed and the Board will receive notice as to when they experience the training module online.
6. TJ Jones, Ethics Enforcement Officer presented seven audit reports. The audit reports will continue to be provided to the Board as they are completed. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion for approval of the audit reports. The motion was moved by Board member Tolles and seconded by Board member Oresman. The vote was unanimous with all eight (8) Board members present voting in favor of approval of the audit reports.** TJ Jones further presented Docket No. 2006-65 for review of the Board. The settlement requires no vote for finality.
 7. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to add the agenda item "New Business" to the agenda to discuss how the sub-committee will handle the regulations. The motion was moved by Board member Storms and seconded by Board member Oresman. The vote was unanimous with all eight (8) Board members present voting in favor to add the agenda item.** Chairperson Hendel would like the sub-committee members-Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik, Board member Storms and herself, to meet with the Executive Director, General Counsel, and the Enforcement Director to discuss functions, positions, responsibilities, and lines of communication in relevance to the balance of the regulations. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion for the Board to approve the meeting of the sub-committee to discuss the balance of the regulations. The motion was moved by Board member Tolles and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik. The vote was unanimous with all eight (8) Board members present voting in favor of the meeting of the sub-committee to address the balance of the regulations.**
 8. **Chairperson Hendel entertained a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was moved by Vice-Chairperson Worgaftik and seconded by Board member Bernstein.** The Board meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine V. Vieira
 Clerk, Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board

Approved: _____