



MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 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. On January 10, 2025, the SCSB Regular Board meeting took place. Video and meeting materials are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
2. On January 12, 2025, Staff Attorney Aaron Felman sent the Board members a legal advisory legal memo on SCSB operating statute's (Chapter 62) most glaring statutory construction shortcomings that have UAPA implications.
3. On January 17, 2025, the GAE Committee voted to raise AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD.
4. On January 22, 2025, a Special meeting with an executive session took place. Video and meeting materials are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
5. As of January 31, 2025, two bills pertaining to SCSB have been introduced and referred to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) committee:
 - a. SB 133 by Senator Sommers; AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD CHAIRPERSON.
 - b. SB 607 by Senator Cicarella; AN ACT INCREASING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OVER THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD.
6. On January 14, 2025, Executive Director Daniels received and began preparing responses to the FY'26-27 Budget Questions from Ranking Member Nuccio. Additionally, the staff is preparing for the upcoming budget hearing before the Appropriations Committee, scheduled to take place on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

7. Staff Attorney Felman continued outlining rules of practice regulation, with a focus on privatization and contest of solicitation or award of a contract. Attorney Felman also began drafting data protection regulations and compiled examples of relevant regulations from other agencies.
8. Executive Director Daniels has contacted the Department of Administrative Services, the State Insurance and Risk Management Board, and the Office of the Attorney General to establish agency liaisons for the future drafting of collaborative regulations as required by our enabling statutes. Liaisons have been established at these agencies. Additionally, Executive Director Daniels has contacted MDC Regional Water Authority, and confirmation of a liaison is pending.

B. Audits:

1. During the Board meeting on January 10, 2025, the DEEP Audit report was approved.
2. Throughout the month, there have been email exchanges with Mr. Bertoline regarding the following topics:
 - a. Triennial Report: Suggested changes by Ms. Gauthier and Mr. Bertoline.
 - b. 60-Day Letter: This is currently being revised with the assistance of Staff Attorney Felman and staff.
 - c. DEEP Report: During the Board meeting on January 10, 2025, DEEP brought attention to the fact that language in our Audit Report referred to an ethics form that was audited by APA and was not audited by SCSB. The APA audited an ethics form which is completed by the vendor. A different ethics form, which is audited by SCSB, requires completion by the state contracting agency's staff before any RFP process to confirm that no actual or potential conflicts exist for employees serving on the selection committee. DEEP asserts that the two audit items are not similar in nature; therefore, SCSB should not reference this APA finding in the SCSB Audit report.
3. On January 29, 2025, the Audit Chair, Alfred Bertoline met with SCSB staff to discuss the following:
 - a. Finalize triennial report – Ready for approval
 - b. Steps for FY'25 audits – Agreed to narrow down the contracts to be audited this year. The number of contracts audited will be reduced to ensure an adequate pool that eliminates the possibility of outliers.
 - c. Engagement letter – We will incorporate a request to submit documentation within 30 days.

- d. Letter of No Cooperation – Will be sent to the agencies that fail to submit their audit materials within the requested timelines.
- e. DEEP report – Removal of APA finding from the SCSB audit report.

4. As of January 31, 2025, the status of each audit is shown in the following chart:

Year 1 Contracting Agency Selection					
<u>Agency</u>	<u># of contracts</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>	<u># of samples audited</u>	<u># of findings</u>	<u>Audit Status</u>
Dept of Energy and Env. Prot.	91	37,234,877	5	3	Report completed 11/15/2024; reviewed by Mr. Bertoline 11/20/2024 approved by board 01/10/2025; additional approvals required
Dept of Social Services	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.
State IT Contracts	2	30,000,000	2		This Group (buying code) is no longer used in CORE; received data 12/2/2024; Still pending
OPM	65	11,733,475	6	3	The data was received on 7/16/2024; the audit was started on 10/1/2024; 4 of the 6 contracts have been completed 2 out of the 6 contracts fall under a BU Award; 3 findings as of 1/25/2025
State Service Contracts (DAS)	518	8,519,755,864	15– 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

5. As of January 31, 2025, the agencies listed below will be audited. The specific samples to be audited have yet to be determined.

Year 2 Contracting Agency Selection					
<u>Agency</u>	<u># of contracts</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>	<u># of samples audited</u>	<u># of findings</u>	<u>Audit Status</u>
Dept of Administrative Svcs (DAS)	543	\$1,817,965,406.27	TBD		
Department of Development Serv (DDS)	434	\$7,324,399,958.35	TBD		
Mental Health & Addiction Serv (MHA)	1206	\$2,886,446,958.11	TBD		
State Dept of Education (SDE)	398	\$167,852,974.70	TBD		

C. Training:

1. On January 22, 2025, Work Group Chair Thomas Ahneman conducted a Training Meeting. The minutes are available on our website at: [Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board](#).
 - a. The next meeting of the Training Work Group is scheduled to take place on February 14, 2025.
2. The IACET Accreditation Application review is ongoing.
3. Trainer Specialist Carmen Hufcut has initiated the Training Campaign with State agencies.
4. Trainer Specialist Hufcut is working with Accounts Examiner Lopez regarding Audit procedures:
 - a. There are currently 42 DEEP employees enrolling in SCSB training classes.
 - b. Continuing to build out the new electronic audit procedures.
5. Trainer Specialist Hufcut is consulting with DAS officials to develop agency-specific training modules.
6. Trainer Specialist Hufcut is consulting with the Office of State Ethics to develop agency-specific training modules.

D. Committee, Subcommittee and Work Group Reports:

1. **Audit/Data Analysis Work Group:**
This work group did not meet in January 2025.
2. **Budget Sub-Work Group:**
This sub-work group did not meet in January 2025.
3. **Contracting Standards Advisory Council (CSAC):**
This Council did not meet in January 2025.
4. **Privatization Contract Committee:**
On January 17, 2025, the Department of Public Health shared a potential privatization matter for review. A meeting to review the issue is scheduled to take place on February 6, 2025.
5. **C.G.S. § 4e-36 Contested Solicitation and Awards Subcommittee:**
This subcommittee did not meet in January 2025.
6. **Statutes, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures Work Group:**
With Thomas Ahneman as Chair of the work group, the initial meeting of this Work Group met on January 9, 2025. Assignments were given to staff members. The next meeting is being scheduled at the convenience of the Work Group members.
7. **Personnel Review Sub-Work Group:**
This sub-work group did not meet in January 2025.
8. **Training Work Group:**
With Thomas Ahneman as Chair of the work group, a meeting was held on January 22, 2025. The Video: [January 22, 2025 Training Work Group Special Meeting](#) and [meeting minutes](#) are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website: [2025-01-22-training-work-group-minutes-draft.pdf](#). The next meeting of the Training Work Group is scheduled to take place following the Regular Board meeting on Friday, February 14, 2025, at Noon.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Office of Governmental Accountability
State Contracting and Standards Board