



MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 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 February 14, 2025, the SCSB Regular Board meeting took place. Video and meeting materials are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
2. On February 6, 2025, a Special meeting with an executive session took place. Meeting minutes and video are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
3. On February 14, 2025, the Regular SCS Board meeting took place. Minutes and Video are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
4. As of February 28, 2025, three bills with provisions regarding the SCSB have been introduced.
 - a. Two bills pertaining to SCSB have been introduced and referred to the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) committee:
 - i. SB 133 by Senator Sommers; An Act Concerning the Appointment of the State Contracting Standards Board Chairperson.
 - ii. SB 607 by Senator Cicarella; An Act Increasing Legislative Oversight Over the State Contracting Standards Board.
 - b. One bill with a provision pertaining to the SCSB has been referred to the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) and is scheduled for a public hearing on March 4, 2025.
 - i. HB 7092 by GOC; An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts.
5. Based upon Governor Lamont's Budget Proposal that was released on February 5, 2025, Executive Director Daniels responded to Senator Nuccio's Budget Questionnaire.

6. On February 14, 2025, Executive Director Daniels submitted Budget Testimony to the Appropriations Committee regarding Governor Lamont's FY'26-27 Proposed Budget Allocation. Unlike previous years, the State Contracting Standards Board was not assigned a time slot to testify to the Appropriations Committee.
7. Regulations Development: Executive Director Daniels has established agency liaisons at the Department of Administrative Services, the State Insurance and Risk Management Board, the Office of the Attorney General, and the MDC for the future drafting of collaborative regulations as required by our enabling statutes.
 - a. Staff Attorney Felman submitted an outline of the rules of practice regulation, with a focus on privatization and contest of solicitation or award of a contract. This included a general outline of other necessary sections.
 - b. Staff Attorney Felman also submitted a draft of the data protection regulations and examples of relevant regulations from other relevant watchdog agencies that may serve as a useful guide for developing the SCSB's regulatory framework.
 - c. Staff Attorney Felman also submitted a preliminary outline of ideas for training regulations to the Training Work Group.
8. Budget:
 - a. FY'25: In consultation with our agency's DAS Fiscal Analyst, if we continue our current cadence of meetings, conservative estimates project an end-of-the-year fiscal deficit of \$33,500.
 - b. FY'26-27: Along with Chair Palache and Budget Sub-Work Group Chair Brenda Sisco, Executive Director Daniels continues to advocate for allocation of our original spending request which was formulated to assume the minimal costs of personal services and operating expenses for the upcoming biennium.

B. Compliance Audits:

1. At the February 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, the Board amended and approved the final DEEP Audit Report.
2. The staff have worked collectively to revise both the Audit Engagement Letter and the Notice of Non-Compliance Letter that will be issued to the agencies in the event they do not respond to audit requests within the prescribed timeframes.

3. The engagement letters have been drafted and will be sent to the agency at the beginning of next month.
4. As of February 28, 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; Approved on 2/14/2025.
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. The last contract review has been completed.
State IT Contracts	2	30,000,000	2		This Group (buying code) is no longer used in CORE; received data 12/2/2024; reviewing documentation, audit will soon be completed.
OPM	65	11,733,475	6	0	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, after a thorough review. There are no findings in this audit. The report is nearing completion.
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. So far, 1 out of 8 audits has been reviewed.

5. As of February 28, 2025, the agencies listed below will be audited. The auditing samples have been 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	4		
Department of Development Serv (DDS)	434	\$7,324,399,958.35	4		
Mental Health & Addiction Serv (MHA)	1206	\$2,886,446,958.11	4		
State Dept of Education (SDE)	398	\$167,852,974.70	4		

C. Training:

1. The next meeting of the Training Work Group is scheduled to take place on March 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 February 2025.
2. **Budget Sub-Work Group:**
This sub-work group did not meet in February 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 with an update.
4. **C.G.S. § 4e-36 Contested Solicitation and Awards Subcommittee:**
This subcommittee did not meet in February 2025.
5. **Statutes, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures Work Group:**
With Thomas Ahneman as Chair, a meeting was held on March 4, 2025 that included a review of the legislative language anticipated in this session. The Work Group anticipates sharing their opinions for discussion at the Regular Board meeting on March 14, 2025.
6. **Personnel Review Sub-Work Group:**
This sub-work group did not meet in February 2025.
7. **Training Work Group:**
The February 14, 2025, meeting was rescheduled to March 14, 2025

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory F. Daniels, Esq.
Executive Director
Office of Governmental Accountability
State Contracting and Standards Board