



MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 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. Board Member changes during the month of March 2025:
 - a. On March 5, 2025, Board Member Daniel S. Rovero passed away. His contributions to this Board were honored at the Special Board Meeting on March 14, 2025.
 - b. On March 12, 2025, Board Member Albert Bertoline resigned from his position on the Board. Mr. Bertoline also served as the Chair of the Audit and Data Analysis Work Group. His contributions to the Board were recognized at the Special Meeting on March 14, 2025.
2. On March 6, 2025, Executive Director Daniels provided testimony to the Appropriations General Government A Subcommittee regarding the budget allocation shortfall for Fiscal Years 2026 – 2027.
3. On March 14, 2025, Executive Director Daniels provided testimony to the Appropriations General Government A Subcommittee regarding the budget allocation shortfall for Fiscal Years 2026 – 2027.
4. On March 14, 2025, the SCSB Board meeting took place. The starting time of the regular meeting had to be adjusted to accommodate the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE) testimony; therefore, the start time of the SCSB regular meeting was changed, and the meeting was rescheduled as a special meeting. Video and meeting materials are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
5. The following legislative updates took place during March 2025:
 - a. Regarding S.B. No. 1499: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State Contracting Standards Board:
 - i. On March 14, 2025, Executive Director Daniels provided testimony to the GAE Committee.
 - ii. SB 1499 passed the GAE Committee and has been filed with the Legislative Commissioners' Office.

- iii. HB 7092: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts passed the Government Oversight Committee and has been filed with the Legislative Commissioners' Office.
 - iv. HB 7232: An Act Concerning Efforts to Streamline State Contracting was introduced by the Appropriations Committee and a public hearing was held on March 28.
 - v. HB 7244: An Act Concerning State Contracting was introduced by and passed the GAE Committee. It has since been filed with the Legislative Commissioners' Office.
6. The following legislative actions took place during the month of March 2025:
- a. The SCSB staff legislative team, which includes Executive Director Greg Daniels, Staff Attorney Aaron Felman, Legislative Analyst Samson Anderson, and Administrative Assistant Aleshia Hall, drafted testimony, both written and oral, for use by Executive Director Daniels during his March 14, 2025, S.B. 1499 testimony before the GAE Committee. A testimony packet was compiled and submitted to the GAE Committee prior to Executive Director Daniel's testimony before the committee.
 - b. The SCSB staff legislative team also drafted and submitted a formal follow-up response to Representative Blumenthal's inquiry to Executive Director Daniels regarding a response to OPM's opposition to S.B. 1499. Said response was submitted to Representative Blumenthal on March 21st, 2025.
7. Regulations Development: In February 2025, Staff Attorney Aaron 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. Based on feedback from the Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group Board members, Attorney Felman is currently revising the rules of practice for resubmission and review at a future work group meeting.
8. Budget:
- a. FY '25: On March 21, 2025, at the request of the GAE Committee, Executive Director Daniels submitted a status of the SCSB FY '25 budget and justification for the request for additional funding allocations for the current fiscal year.
 - 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. On March 4, 2025, engagement letters were sent to the agencies that will be audited for FY '25.
2. SCSB staff held a meeting with Mr. Thomas Pysh and his team regarding the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) related to leasing and property transfer. Mr. Pysh was able to answer our questions and clarify the role of DAS in this context.
3. On March 12, Mr. Alfred Bertoline announced his resignation. At the Special Board Meeting held on March 14, 2025. Board Member Lauren Gauthier was appointed as the new Chair for the Audit Work Group.
4. As of March 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 on 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. Drafting Audit report 3/13/2025
State IT Contracts	2	30,000,000	2		This Group (buying code) is no longer used in CORE; received data 12/2/2024; Audit has been reviewed, awaiting additional documentation.
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. Audit completed 3/3/2025. The report was sent for review to the committee on 3/7/2025 and 3/17/2025
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. So far, 3 out of 8 audits has been reviewed.

5. As of March 31, 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 for April 11, 2025.
2. The IACET Accreditation Application review is ongoing.
3. Trainer Specialist Carmen Hufcut continues work with other State agencies on the Training Campaign.

4. Trainer Specialist Hufcut continues work with Accounts Examiner Lopez regarding Audit procedures.
5. Among the 42 employees of DEEP, 28 of whom are mandated to complete the courses, more than 50% have successfully finished the recommended courses.
6. The Training Plan has been updated to comply with accreditation standards and will be discussed in the forthcoming training meeting.
7. The following Internal Policies and Progress for Participants were developed to comply with accreditation standards and will be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the Training Work Group.
 - a. Participants Registrations
 - b. Participant Support System
 - c. Participant ID verification
 - d. Roles and Responsibilities of Maintaining Learner Records
 - e. Privacy and Information Policy
 - f. Professional Development Practice
5. Trainer Specialist Hufcut conducted a meeting with the SCSB attorney to discuss regulatory ideas that will be presented for discussion at the upcoming meeting of the Training Work Group on April 11, 2025.

D. Committee, Subcommittee and Work Group Reports:

1. **Audit/Data Analysis Work Group:**
This work group did not meet in March 2025.
2. **Budget Sub-Work Group:**
This sub-work group did not meet in March 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. There is no update in March 2025.
4. **C.G.S. § 4e-36 Contested Solicitation and Awards Subcommittee:**
This subcommittee did not meet in March 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.

6. Personnel Review Sub-Work Group:

This sub-work group did not meet in March 2025.

7. Training Work Group:

The March 14, 2025, meeting was rescheduled to April 11, 2025.

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