



Regular Meeting Notice & Agenda

Friday, June 13, 2025 - 10:00 A.M.

Location: 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut
Conference Room G006D & G007E and *Virtual*

In Attendance:

Rochelle Palache, Chair of the SCSB (in person)
Thomas Ahneman (virtual)
Keith Brothers (virtual)
Roberto Fernandez (virtual)
Lauren Gauthier (in person)
Al Ilg (in person)
Donna Karnes (in person)
Salvatore Luciano (in person)
Stuart Mahler (in person)
James Marpe (in person)

Gregory Daniels, Executive Director (in person)
Samson Anderson, Research Analyst (in person)
Aaron Felman, Staff Attorney (in person)
Aleshia Hall, Administrative Assistant (virtual)
Maritza Lopez, Accounts Examiner (in person)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Palache at 1004
 - a. Roll Call of Board Members
2. Executive Session:
 - a. Purpose: Legal advice regarding a pending claim before the Office of Public Hearings.
 - b. Invitee: Associate Attorney General Colleen Valentine

A motion to initiate the Executive Session was made by Salvatore Luciano.

The motion was seconded by James Marpe

The motion was amended by Lauren Gauthier to invite AAG Valentine to the Executive Session.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Executive Session was initiated at 10:09 a.m.

3. Approval of Minutes was completed prior to the start of the Executive Session.
 - a. Approval of the minutes from the May 9, 2025, SCSB Regular Meeting

A motion to accept the minutes as written was made Sal Luciano
 The motion was seconded by James Marpe
 The minutes were unanimously approved with abstentions by Chair Palache and Al Ilg

The regular meeting resumed at 11:42 a.m.

4. Communications and Petitions
 - a. Sec. 4e-36 Contested Solicitations and Awards Subcommittee Report – Chair Stuart L. Mahler: Mr. Mahler shared that there is no report.
 - b. Privatization Contract Committee Report – Chair Salvatore C. Luciano: Mr. Luciano shared that there is no report.
 - c. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group
 - i. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group Report:
 Mr. Ahneman reported that the audits are progressing. Most recently there was progress with OPM, DSS, and several other audits. Audits will be before the Work group before next meeting.
 - ii. Budget Sub-Work Group Report
 1. SCSB Budget: Chair Palache said we were able to get the budget allocation that we requested. This is a testament to the good work of the Board and the staff. Executive Director Daniels thanked the Board Members for their assistance.
 - d. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
 - i. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures Work Group Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
 1. Regulations Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
 Mr. Ahneman reported that the SRPP Work Group met on June 4, 2024. Another draft of procedures will be completed for the next meeting of the Work Group. There is a lot of legalese that needs to be scripted.

 Mr. Ahneman welcomed Roberto Fernandez to the Work Group.

 The Work Group looks forward to sharing information with the Board during the year.
 2. Legislative Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
 - a. Summary of 2025 Legislative Session – Mr. Ahneman deferred to Research Analyst Samson Anderson to provide the Legislative Report. Research Analyst Anderson reported that the Legislative session has concluded. We tracked 19 pieces of legislation. Three or four of these spoke specifically to our entity; none passed in or out of the Senate.

SB1358: An Act Concerning Equitable Compensation for State Contracted Non-Profit Human Service Providers is the only one that passes both chambers and will move to the Governor.

In response to Mr. Mahler's inquiry about a reference to our statute in the implementer bill, Research Analyst Anderson confirmed that both he and Staff Attorney Felman reviewed the details and determined that there are no changes in the implementor bill that will affect our agency or our duties.

In response to Mr. Marpe's inquiry of what we could have done to influence the passing of any of this legislation, Chair Palache explained that, due to the priorities of the GAA, she did not see a path forward during this session. In the future, we will continue to make this a priority for the Commission.

3. Discussion on pending legislation concerning the SCSB: Nothing remains pending at this time.
- e. Training Work Group Report – Chair Thomas G. Ahneman
 - The IACET accreditation application was accepted. A virtual site visit is scheduled for June 18.
 - OPM Administrators have requested that we register five staff members for training.
 - Policies and processes will be worked on by the work group at the next meeting which has not been scheduled. A review of the areas of concentration were discussed.
 - Trainer Specialist Hufcut has created a training log in for all Board members to complete the Ethics Training course. Mr. Ahneman encourages all Board member to participate in the training. Chair Palache confirmed that this information was sent via email on May 30, 2025. The training module will take approximately one hour to complete.
 - Mr. Ahneman welcomed Mr. Fernandez to the Training Work Group.
 - To date, 28 DEEP employees have completed Level 1 course work. This far exceeds our 2024 numbers, and we are excited to continue to develop Level 2 coursework and ultimately Level 3 course work.
 - The Training Work Group will be working with the SRPP Work Group in the future as well.

Chair Palache thanked Mr. Ahneman and Training Specialist Hufcut for their excellent work on the training initiatives.

f. [Staff Report](#)

- i. Administrative and Operations – Gregory F. Daniels, Executive Director

In the interest of time, Executive Director Daniels directed everyone to the May monthly report.

Ms. Gauthier stated that she is waiting for an answer to why OPM got a waiver for financial services on a \$500,000 contract. Ms. Karnes reiterated Ms. Gauthier's inquiry. Mr. Fernandez provided a brief explanation about the specifics of UCONN contracting and said that he will find an answer to that and provide an explanation.

Rather than waiting until later in the meeting, Chair Palache used this opportunity to announce that Roberto Fernandez will now serve as the new Chair of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Marpe inquired about the sample size and financial amounts of the contracts selected for audit. Executive Director Daniels explained that the Audit Work Group decides the selection criteria that is currently based on a 2% rule. He offered to provide details offline with Audit Chair Fernandez and Accounts Examiner Lopez.

Mr. Fernandez thanked the staff for the initial meeting regarding audit procedures and looks forward to working with the Work Group.

- ii. Chief Procurement Officer Report: Nothing to report.
- iii. Legal Update – Aaron I. Felman, Staff Attorney

Attorney Felman confirmed that the report shared by Mr. Ahneman regarding the SRPP Work Group covered most of the legal concerns.

5. Old Business: None to discuss

6. New Business

Mr. Fernandez received reports from state employees that they received annual verification letters from the Comptroller's office had a Michigan return address, and they were concerned that it may be spam. He asked if anyone else was aware of this. Chair Palache confirmed with the attendees that no one had any information regarding this.

7. Opportunity for Citizens to Address the SCSB: None

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:59 a.m. by Salvatore Luciano

The motion was seconded by Donna Karnes

The motion was unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Aleshia Hall
Administrative Assistant