



Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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Executive Ethics Board News

Lisa Marsh, Chair
Anna Dukek Ross, Vice Chair
Matthew Williams III, Member
Samantha Simmons, Member
Sumeer Singla, Member

July 14, 2014

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, July 11, 2014 for their regular business meeting. Chair Lisa Marsh and Members Williams and Simmons were present. Vice Chair Dudek Ross and Member Singla attended via telephone. Others attending included: Kathryn Wyatt, Acting Executive Director, Bruce Turcott, Board Advisor, David Killeen, Investigator, Chad Standifer, Board Prosecutor and Ruthann Bryant Board Secretary. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

In lieu of an enforcement hearing, the Board accepted stipulations from:

- **Artee Young**, an employee of The Evergreen State College for conducting activities incompatible with public duties and securing special privileges. Evidence indicated that Ms. Young requested a need for an adjunct professor and recommended that the College hire her friend to fill a position she created. She also lived with the same friend and incurred a financial obligation with her when she borrowed a large sum of money. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,500, suspending \$1,500.
- **Michelle Heide**, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services with the Division of Developmental Disabilities, for conducting activities incompatible with public duties, having a financial interest in a transaction and securing a special privilege when she sold Scentsy Candle products to clients under her control and used her position as the Attendant Counselor Manager to sign and approve payment for the candles, personally benefitting from the sales. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,000.
- **Jessica Chaney**, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services Home and Community Services, for using state resources for her personal benefit when she submitted false mileage reimbursement claims and when she took time off from work without submitting the proper leave requests. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500 with an additional \$1,170 in restitution to the Department of Social and Health Services.
- **Amanda Ramirez**, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services for conducting activities incompatible with her public duties when she failed to notify her supervisor that her sister-in-law had applied for a position within her department. Evidence indicated that the sister-in-law went through the normal hiring process and was not afforded any special privilege in the process. The Board issued her a Letter of Instruction, including a requirement that she complete the online Ethics Challenge.
- The Board found Reasonable Cause in four cases: 2014-004 (Baker), 2014-005 (Graves), 2014-006 (Standish) and 2014-014 (Ross).

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for September 12, 2014.

- The Board upheld one Executive Director Dismissal regarding EEB Case 2014-020 (Stewart).

Board Action:

- A. The Board reviewed and approved the following policies:
- Department of Enterprise Services – Ethical Conduct
 - Department of Corrections – Use of State Resources
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife – Conflicts of Interest/Ethics, Gifts, Confidential Information, Use of State Resources, Compensation for Outside Activities, Honoraria and Post-state Employment

Meeting agendas can be found at www.ethics.wa.gov under "Meetings."

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