



Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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Executive Ethics Board News

Lisa Marsh, Chair
Matthew Williams III, Member
Samantha Simmons, Member

June 3, 2014

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, May 9, 2014 for their regular business meeting. Vice Chair Dudek Ross and Member Singla did not attend; all other Board members were present. Others attending included: Evelyn Fielding Lopez, 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:

- **Cathy Perry**, an employee of the Military Department, for use of state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that Ms. Perry falsified time and attendance records by not appropriately accounting for leave and attendance on timesheets as well as not submitting the required leave requests. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500, suspending \$1,750.
- **Lesley Blake**, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services at Eastern State Hospital, for accepting honoraria from pharmaceutical companies to promote their products and using her influence to promote their products to the state. Evidence indicated that Dr. Blake used state resources to conduct promotional lectures for Jenssen Pharmaceuticals and accepted payment for her appearances on many occasions. Dr. Blake was on leave during the time she gave lectures, however she did not have a notification of outside employment form on file with DSHS to provide such services to pharmaceutical companies. In addition, DSHS policy prohibits employees from receiving honoraria of any kind. A review of Dr. Blake's email also revealed that she conducted other outside employment activities using state resources. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$10,000 with \$2,500 suspended.
- **Ted Koska**, an employee of the Department of Transportation, for using state resources to promote/support an outside non-profit organization of which he was a board member. Records indicated that Mr. Koska used his state computer and official job title while corresponding with another state agency regarding the non-profit. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500 with \$250 suspended.
- **Sharon George**, an employee of the Department of Social and Health Services for using state resources for her outside business. Records did show that Ms. George sent and received a few emails supporting her outside business in 2009, but there was no evidence to indicate more recent use of state resources for that purpose. The Board issued her a Letter of Instruction, including a requirement that she complete the online Ethics Challenge.
- The Board found Reasonable Cause in three cases: 2013-048 (Reed), 2013-049 (Brown) and 2014-009 (Messenger).

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for July 11, 2014.

- The Board did not find Reasonable Cause in one case: 2014-050 (Thompson).
- The Board dismissed one case: 2013-012 (Thomas).
- The Board upheld six Executive Director Dismissals: 2013-044 (Rogers), 2014-001 (Nessinger), 2014-010 (Ortiz), 2014-011 (Strobert), 2014-012 (Lindstrand) and 2014-013 (Wilks).
- The Board heard oral argument regarding case 2010-018 (Diaz) following a Superior Court order remanding the case back to the Board.

Other Highlights:

- A. The Board said goodbye to Executive Director Melanie de Leon as she moved on to pursue her attorney career in litigation and introduced Acting Executive Director Evelyn Fielding Lopez. Evelyn is a Senior Assistant Attorney General, has been with the Office of the Attorney General since 1990 and the Division Chief of the L&I Division since 2005. She shared her vision for the Board and added that she welcomed discussions with the members, ethics advisors and the public to share their thoughts on how we might improve our services.
- B. The Board is also excited to be holding a retreat in September and discussed items they would like to focus on during that retreat, including development of a new Strategic Plan. Board staff would also like to discuss expanding stakeholder communications and outreach and how policy should be developed.

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