# Washington State Executive Ethics Board

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## Executive Ethics Board News


**Lisa Marsh, Chair**
**Anna Dudek Ross, Vice Chair**
**Michael Bahn, Member**
**Matthew Williams III, Member**
**Samantha Simmons, Member**


January 14, 2013

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Wednesday and Thursday, January 9-10, 2013 for an enforcement hearing and on Friday, January 11, 2013 for their regular business meeting. All Board members were present each day. Others attending the business meeting included: Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, David Killeen, Investigator, Bruce Turcott, Board Counsel and Ruthann Bryant Board Secretary. Members of the public also attended.

**Enforcement**

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

- **Ray Meinzer,** Facility Services Coordinator, Department of Social and Health Services for using state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that during the past 1½ years, Mr. Meinzer had been using the state's underground parking garage to store at least one of his personal vehicles and two of his motorcycles. The Board levied a civil penalty of $4,000, suspending $2,000.

- **Cheryl Steele,** an employee of the Department of Corrections, for using state resources for personal gain. Records indicated that Ms. Steele used state resources to send an email from work to members of the Spokane City Council and the West Central Neighborhood Council in support of local business owners. The Board provided a Letter of Instruction regarding the use of state resources and fined her $100.

- **Tara Salzer,** an employee of the Department of Natural Resources, for using state resources for personal gain. Evidence indicated that Ms. Salzer used her state computer to purchase an item from Craigslist, and on several occasions she sent/received emails from her state email account in support of at least two outside, non-profit groups. The Board levied a civil penalty of $100.

- The Board found Reasonable Cause in seven cases: 2012-037( Buss), 2012-048 (Glenn), 2012-049 (Gifford), 2012-053 (Goss), 2012-054 (Rutyne), 2012-056 (Gardiner) and 2012-058 (Hyatt).

- The Board asked for more information on case 2012-070 (Lake).

The Board completed an administrative hearing for EEB Case 2011-015, Belinda Stewart. The Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are currently being drafted by Board Counsel.

**Board Action:**

The Board reviewed and approved six policies for the Department of Revenue regarding: Conflict of Interest and Ethics in Public Service, Fundraising, Outside Employment, Political Activity, Use of Electronic Media, Use of State Equipment and Facilities.

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

*The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for March 8, 2013.*