

Executive Ethics Board News

Judy Golberg, Chair
Neil Gorrell, Vice-Chair
Evelyn Yenson, Member
Linnaea Jablonski, Member
Mike Connelly, Member

May 9, 2008

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, May 9, 2008. All members were present, except Linnaea Jablonski. Others attending included Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, Nancy Lewin and Susan Jones, Investigators, Ruthann Bryant, Board Secretary, Linda Dalton, Sr. AAG, and Jerry Anderson, AAG. Other members of the public also attended.

Ethics Issues

The Board received a request for reconsideration of Advisory Opinion 08-01, regarding the sale of Weight Watchers products during Weight Watchers in the Workplace meetings. The Board accepted the request and will be provided with all of the background material it used to develop the opinion to determine if it should be revised based upon the requestor's argument. This discussion should take place at the June 13th meeting.

Enforcement

The Board considered a request for review of three cases and the Executive Director dismissed an additional eleven cases. One case was closed because the Board staff could not locate the respondent after diligent efforts were made to do so.

Staff News

The Board Staff trained over 440 state employees in April and are now available to train any state agency. Twelve ethics training topics will be placed on the website by the end of May for use by supervisors and leads during regular staff meetings to discuss one ethics topic. These training aids include the law, a lay description of the law and some scenarios to encourage discussion about the topic. The Board staff also developed a handout to give to potential contractors with the state so that they know what a state employee can and can not do. This has been forwarded to GA for coordination.

In April, the Board staff addressed over 76 ethics questions via the Ethics website, e-mails and direct calls to Board staff or in-person meetings. These issues were usually answered the same day, unless Board staff needed to complete extensive research.

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for June 13, 2008.