

Executive Ethics Board News

Shirley Battan, Chair
Jan Jutte, Vice Chair
Gerri Davis, Member
Earl Key, Member
Kelli Hooke, Member

January 20, 2023

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, January 13, 2023 for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Shirley Battan, Vice Chair Jan Jutte and Member Kelli Hooke. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Leo Roinila, Assistant Attorney General, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer, and Bobby Frye and Justin Cotte, Investigators. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

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

- **Samantha Ice**, Health Services Consultant 2 at the Department of Health, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit and gain. Evidence indicated that they used a state computer to store personal documents and photographs, used their state email for private benefit and browsed the internet for personal use. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,750 with \$1,250 suspended.
- **Steven Eneix**, former Security Guard 2 with the Department of Social and Health Services, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain and accessing confidential information for non-work related purposes. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,500.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2022-018 (Eier), EEB Case 2022-019 (De La Cruz), EEB Case 2022-021 (Egbert), EEB Case 2022-023 (Wilson), EEB Case 2022-026 (Rajagopal), EEB Case 2022-027 (Afroze), EEB Case 2022-028 (Window), EEB Case 2022-029 (Scott), EEB Case 2022-030 (Brewer), EEB Case 2022-031 (Blake), EEB Case 2022-033 (Higano), and EEB Case 2022-035 (Slaybaugh).

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2022-024 (Jones), EEB Case 2022-034 (Mwawa), and EEB Case 2022-036 (Porter).

The Board entered a Final Order of Default in EEB Case 2022-001 (Ank).

The Board also reviewed four Executive Director Dismissals in EEB Case 2022-020 (White), EEB Case 2022-022 (Klucking), EEB Case 2022-025 (Akins) and EEB Case 2022-041 (Comstock).

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for March 10, 2023.

Board Action:

- A. The Board heard a Motion for Summary Judgment in EEB Case 2021-050 Linda Bang.
- B. The Board discussed the use of state resources when applying for state jobs.
- C. The Board began a review and update of their Strategic Plan.
- D. The Board reviewed and approved the following policies:
 - Employment of Relatives or Household Members and Personal Relationships – Department of Children, Youth and Families
 - Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources and the Internet – Department of Children, Youth and Families
 - Ethics: Use of State Resources, Employee Recognition – Health Care Authority
 - Ethical Conduct and Outside Employment – Liquor and Cannabis Board
 - Ethics – Office of Financial Management
 - Technology Acceptable Use – Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Ethics – Renton Technical College

Approved versions of policies are posted on the Board's website at www.ethics.wa.gov.