

Executive Ethics Board News

Jan Jutte, Chair
Kelli Hooke, Vice Chair
Earl Key, Member
Shirley Battan, Member
Megan Abel, Member

July 18, 2023

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, July 14, 2023 for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Jan Jutte, Vice Chair Kelli Hooke and Members Shirley Battan and Megan Abel. 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:

- **Terry Scott**, part-time faculty member at Bellevue College, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit and gain. Evidence indicated that Terry Scott used their state computer to send emails promoting the sale of a book she had written. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Brittany Prows**, a former Administrative Assistant 3 at the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated Brittany Prows had approximately 1,491 hours of paid time that was unaccounted for and used their state computer to search the internet, browse Facebook and to conduct searches on Google. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,500.
- **Laura Houde**, a former Therapy Supervisor at Western State Hospital with the Department of Social and Health Services, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by disclosing confidential information, providing a special privilege and by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Laura Houde used their state issued computer to create and store documents and manuals used for non-work related purposes and may have shared confidential information outside of their work unit. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,750.
- **SeanPierre Adams**, a former Therapy Supervisor at Western State Hospital with the Department of Social and Health Services, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by providing a special privilege and by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that SeanPierre Adams used their state issued computer to store documents used for non-work related purposes. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500.

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- **Linda Womack**, a Small Business & Community Support Managing Director at the Department of Commerce, may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by conducting activities incompatible with public duties and by using state resources for private benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Linda Womack was on the Board of Directors of the Association of Women and Minority Businesses, which could result in a conflict of interest with their position at the Department of Commerce. Additionally, documents and emails related to the association were located on their state computer. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500 with \$100 suspended.
- **Kristen Rhodes**, a Dental Hygienist 2 at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Kristen Rhodes used online streaming services and browsed the internet for non-work related purposes. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 suspended.
- **Alena Jordan**, Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for private benefit or gain. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500 with \$100 suspended.
- **Buck Rohan**, a Correctional Sergeant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Buck Rohan used online streaming services and browsed the internet for non-work related purposes. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Christopher Carlile**, a Correctional Unit Supervisor at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Christopher Carlile browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including shopping sites, social media and online college, conducted an extensive amount of personal Google searches and browsed YouTube. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Daniel Bayer**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Daniel Bayer browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including Amazon, social media and news sites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Evelyn Flores**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Evelyn Flores had several Google searches and YouTube visits over a six-month period. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500 with \$750 suspended.

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- **Gerrod Martin**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Gerrod Martin browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including multiple Goggle and YouTube visits, social media and shopping sites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Gabriel Logan**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Gabriel Logan browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including several hundred Goggle searches, thousands of YouTube visits and a several hundred Zillow visits over a two-year period. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Gilbert Lugo**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Gilbert Lugo browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including over a thousand Goggle searches and several Amazon, ESPN and other news sites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Jarrold Sumerlin**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Jarrod Sumerlin browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including several hundred Goggle searches, YouTube, Craigslist, ESPN and other news site visits. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,500 with \$1,500 suspended.
- **Micah Melton**, a Correctional Sergeant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Micah Melton browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including several Goggle searches, YouTube and social media sites on two different state computers. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$3,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Michael Croft**, a Correctional Sergeant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Michael Croft browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including hundreds of Goggle searches, YouTube and travel sites on two different state computers. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Scott Lowder**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Scott Lowder browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including YouTube, TV streaming services, CNN and food sites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.

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- **Shari Harmon**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Shari Harmon browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including YouTube, Yahoo and social media sites. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **William Fletcher**, a Correctional Lieutenant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that William Fletcher browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including multiple visits to news sites, several Google searches and YouTube visits. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.
- **Suzanne Havens**, an Office Assistant 2 Brand Clerk with the Department of Agriculture, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Suzanne Havens used their state issued smart phone for personal use and allowed a family member to use the phone while out-of-state for several months. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$2,500.
- **Kurtis Grindrod**, a Correctional Sergeant at the Washington State Penitentiary with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit or gain. Evidence indicated that Kurtis Grindrod browsed the internet for non-work related purposes including multiple visits to YouTube, Instagram and CNN over a 5-month period and stored several personal photographs on their state computer. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$5,000 with \$1,000 suspended.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2022-046 (Flaxman), EEB Case 2022-049 (Martinez), EEB Case 2022-050 (Perez), EEB Case 2022-068 (Acosta), EEB Case 2023-001 (Huang), and EEB Case 2023-009 (Brusseau).

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2023-006 (Maxwell), EEB Case 2023-010 (Pearson), EEB Case 2023-011 (Robertson) and EEB Case 2023-012 (Todorovich).

The Board also reviewed two Executive Director Dismissals in EEB Case 2023-002 (Lull) and EEB Case 2023-003 (Wojtach).

Board Action:

A. The Board reviewed and approved the following policies:

- Individual Commissioner's Interests in Commission Contracts/Sales/Leases/Purchases/Grants – Commission for Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences
- Wildland Fire Physical Fitness Training – Department of Natural Resources

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

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- B. The Board reviewed and approved a revised Advisory Opinion 02-02A Use of state resources questions and answers.
- C. The Board reviewed and approved their 2023-2025 Strategic Plan.

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