

Executive Ethics Board News

Kelli Hooke, Chair
Megan Abel, Vice Chair
Jan Jutte, Member
Cam Comfort, Member
David Hankins, Member

November 13, 2024

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, September 8, 2024, for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Kelli Hooke, Vice Chair Megan Abel and Members Jan Jutte, Cam Comfort and David Hankins. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Matt Kernutt, Senior Counsel, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer and Justin Cotte, Senior Digital Forensic Investigator. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

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

- **Reyes De La Cruz**, former Unemployment Insurance Specialist 4 with the Employment Security Department, agreed that they may have violated several sections of the Ethics in Public Service Act. Evidence indicated that Reyes De La Cruz filed illegitimate claims for themselves, family, friends and acquaintances resulting in approximately \$360,000 worth of fraudulent claims. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$15,000.
- **Enrico Carver**, Corrections and Custody Officer 2 with the Department of Corrections, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using state resources for personal benefit. Evidence indicated that Enrico Carver browsed the internet visiting numerous news websites, ESPN and YouTube. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$500 with \$200 suspended.
- **Julie Schillreff**, Teacher Education Instructor with Yakima Valley College, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by receiving compensation for outside activities. Evidence indicated that Julie Schillreff used their state computer to conduct work related to their outside employment. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$300.
- **Oscar Ochoa**, former Social Service Specialist 5 with the Department of Social and Health Services, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using their state email account for personal use, to include communication with their spouse, insurance company and to make personal purchases. Evidence also indicated that Oscar Ochoa made several unnecessary referrals which resulted in a cost to the state. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$750.
- **David Plassman**, former Social Service Specialist 2, with the Department of Social and Health Services, agreed that they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act by using their state cell phone to make over 1,300 personal calls which resulted in overage fees to the state. The Board levied a civil penalty of \$1,500.

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for January 10, 2025.

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2023-071 (Hamilton-Manier), EEB Case 2023-074 (Muhammad), EEB Case 2023-076 (Lupinski), EEB Case 2023-077 (Krepps), EEB Case 2023-078 (Bookter), EEB Case 2023-079 (Lember) and EEB Case 2023-080 (Whitman).

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2023-075 (Norberg).

The Board also reviewed one Executive Director Dismissal in EEB Case 2023-073 (Wax).

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