Executive Ethics Board News

Megan Abel, Chair
Cam Comfort, Vice Chair
Kelli Hooke, Member
David Hankins, Member
Mark Rapozo, Member

September 16, 2026

The Executive Ethics Board (Board) met on Friday, September 11, 2026, for their regular meeting. Board members present were Chair Megan Abel, and Members Kelli Hooke, and David Hankins. Others attending included: Kate Reynolds, Executive Director, Matt Kernutt, Senior Counsel, Julia Eisentrout, Assistant Attorney General, Debra Defryn, Assistant Attorney General, Ruthann Bryant, Administrative Officer, Justin Cotte, Senior Digital Forensic Investigator and Jackie Franklin, Senior Criminal Investigator. Members of the public also attended.

Enforcement

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

- **LuzMarina Tejeda**, former faculty member at Green River College, agreed they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act when they used Green River College resources for outside work and to browse the internet. The Board levied a civil penalty of $5,000 with $750 suspended.

- **Austin Kandior,** Juvenile Rehabilitation Living Unit Manager with the Department of Children, Youth and Families, agreed they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act when they rented a residence that belonged to their family trust to their subordinate for approximately three years. The Board levied a civil penalty of $1,000 with $250 suspended.

- **Grant Samsill**, Fish and Wildlife Biologist 3 with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, agreed they may have violated the Ethics in Public Service Act when they may have received a special privilege by using information captured from state issued trail cameras to hunt turkeys on private land. The Board levied a civil penalty of $750 with $250 suspended.

The Board reviewed three Executive Director Dismissals in EEB Case 2025-033 (Mustin), EEB Case2025-046 (Bryant) and EEB Case 2026-041 (Lang).

The Board found Reasonable Cause in EEB Case 2024-059 (Reames), EEB Case 2024-066 (Fowler), EEB Case 2024-094 (Selzler), EEB Case 2025-008 (Barber), EEB Case 2025-044 (Littlewolf) and EEB Case 2025-076 (Jones).

The Board dismissed EEB Case 2024-039 (Sharp), EEB Case 2024-053 (Eggers), EEB Case 2024-071 (Fletcher), EEB Case 2024-082 (Ramirez), EEB Case 2024-086 (McMahan), EEB Case 2024-087 (Portillo), EEB Case 2024-093 (Burgos-Dago-Oc), EEB Case 2025-017

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

The next meeting of the Executive Ethics Board is scheduled for November 13, 2026.

(Metzger), EEB Case 2025-024 (Choate), EEB Case 2025-062 (Hart) and EEB Case 2025-068 (Upton).

The Board issued Default and Final Orders in EEB Case 2024-043/2025-001 (Jones) and EEB Case 2024-007 (Ezell).

Board Action

A. The Board continued their scheduled review of advisory opinions (AO). The Board staff is facilitating this review by grouping like subjects together, so that the Board reviews all of the opinions on that subject at the same time and completing a pre-review to provide the Board with context and recommendations. During their review the Board will determine if the AO should remain unchanged, be updated or archived. This round of reviews covered use of state resources encompassing the following AOs:

- 96-03: Wellness Program
- 99-02: Operating a non-profit within an agency
- 00-09: Combined fund drive activities
- 00-10: Emails
- 02-01: Use of state facilities to conduct union business
- 02-02A: Use of state resources-general bard advice
- 02-05: Use of State Facilities to Gamble
- 03-01: Accessing state retirement account/state provided benefits
- 03-03: Frequent flyer miles
- 03-04: Selling complimentary text books
- 04-02: Participating in creation or review of articles to be used to promote commercial products
- 08-01: Authorizing Wellness Organizations to Sell Products
- 08-02: Ferry Passes
- 09-05: Gift of Employee Time
- 10-01: Use of Resources for Wellness Program
- 10-02: Wearing Uniforms at Charitable Events
- 23-01: Paid Time to Exercise
- 25-01: Paid Time for Certifications

B. The Board reviewed and approved the following agency policies:

- Employee Relationships with Clients, Contracted Service Providers, and Outside Organizations – Department of Social & Health Services
- Outside Employment – Department of Social & Health Services
- Standards of Ethical Conduct – Department of Social & Health Services
- Ethics in Public Service – Department of Transportation

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