# STATE OF CONNECTICUT
# OFFICE OF STATE ETHICS

## Former Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Psychologist Pays $1000 to Settle Ethics Code Violations

*Hartford* – Lisa Berzins, of Farmington, Connecticut a former staff psychologist at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, CT – a state facility operated by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) - paid a $1,000 penalty for violating Sections 1-84 (c) of the Code of Ethics.

From 2013 through 2016, while a state employee, Dr. Berzins worked for a private company that provides services to clients. The services she performed for the private company were unrelated to her state position. Nevertheless, during that time period, Dr. Berszins utilized her state-issued computers and other state-owned equipment to conduct outside work-related tasks for the private company and did so on state time, while receiving pay from the state. Under Section 1-84 (c) of the Code, a public official or state employee is prohibited from using state resources to obtain personal financial gain.

 "Public resources are for the public's business," said Executive Director, Carol Carson. "State equipment and e-mail accounts should not be used to operate a private business on state time. The Code of Ethics is clear that while state employees may have other jobs, their state jobs must come first."

Through a separate but related personnel action, Dr. Berzins was terminated by DMHAS. Dr. Berzins fully cooperated with the Office of State Ethics' investigation and had no prior history of ethics violations.

View:  Stipulation and Consent Order 2016-32

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