

# **State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB)**

## **Office of Governmental Accountability**

### *At a Glance*

**DAVID L. GUAY, Executive Director**

**Chief Procurement Officer – Vacancy**

**Established - 2009**

**Statutory authority - Conn. Gen. Statutes Sec. 4e-1 to 4e-47**

**Central office – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106**

**Number of employees - 1**

**Recurring operating expenses - \$167,230**

**Organizational structure – Fourteen-member State Contracting Standards Board, Citizen and Vendor Advisory Council, Contracting Standards Advisory Council, Privatization Contract Committee, Contested Solicitations and Awards Sub-committee, Audit Work Group, Data Analysis Work Group, Training and External Communications Work Group, Regulations Work Group.**

**State Contracting Standards Board Members – Lawrence S. Fox, Chair, Thomas G. Ahneman, Alfred W. Bertoline, Bruce H. Buff, Charles W. Casella, Jr., Albert Ilg, Donna Karnes, Salvatore Luciano, Stuart Mahler, Jean Morningstar, Robert D. Rinker, Robert Sember, Brenda Sisco, one Vacancy.**

### **Mission**

*Our mission is to require that state contracting and procurement requirements are understood and carried out in a manner that is open, cost-effective, efficient and consistent with State and Federal statutes, rules and regulations. (Adopted March 11, 2016)*

### **Statutory Responsibility**

- Establishes the Board as the central oversight and policy body for all state procurement.
- Creates the position of Chief Procurement Officer, an experienced procurement professional to assist the Board in implementing its programs, policies and procedures.
- Requires each agency head to appoint a qualified Agency Procurement Officer to oversee all procurement activities of the agency and to serve as the liaison to the Chief Procurement Officer.
- Calls for the development and implementation of a standardized state procurement and project management education and training program, which certifies that agencies and staff are in compliance with the statutes and regulations.
- Sets forth the criteria and enforcement authority of the Board including the ability to restrict or eliminate the procurement authority of any state agency and the disqualification of any contractor, bidder or proposer for up to five years.
- Establishes a structural process that all state agencies shall follow when entering into a privatization agreement, including a cost-benefit analysis.
- Creates a Contracting Standards Advisory Council of agency representatives to discuss state procurement issues and recommend improvements to procurement processes.

- Creates a Vendor and Citizen Advisory Panel of 15 citizens and vendor members to make recommendations to the Board regarding best practices in state procurement processes and project management, as well as other issues pertaining to stakeholders in the system.
- Requires each of the State's constitutional officers (Secretary of the State, Comptroller, Treasurer and Attorney General) to adopt a code of procurement practices.
- Requires that the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch prepare a uniform procurement code applicable to contracting expenditures including any building, renovation, alteration or repairs.
- Recommends a timeline to redesign and streamline the repetitive, conflicting or obsolete provisions of law, policies and practices in the state procurement process.

### **Public Service**

The chief beneficiaries of the State Contracting Standards Board work are three-fold: state contracting agencies, state contractors, and state taxpayers. By creating relationships with state contracting agencies, working to develop regulations and facilitating compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, state contracting agencies are better poised to uniformly produce procurements and let contracts. State contractors benefit from a standardized expectation of administration and procedure. Taxpayers benefit from the compliance of the state contracting agencies, which yield cost savings to the state. As the Board continues to develop robust policies and procedures, require reports from the state contracting agencies and host trainings and seminars, the Board should be able to see improvement in the results of the audits it conducts. Additionally, annual reports should show improvement year to year.

### **Improvements/Achievements for fiscal year 2019-2020**

- The Board resolved three contested solicitations and awards.
- The Board investigated three privatization initiatives.
- The Board reviewed with the Office of Policy and Management contracting changes mandated by Public Act 19-117 concerning the posting of Personal Service Agreement waivers from competitive bidding, new reporting on Personal Service Agreements waivers from competitive bidding and the justification for the waiver, and the initiation of a three-year procurement plan for agencies.
- The Board initiated a study of the Capital Region Development Authority contracting in the redevelopment of Dillon Stadium in Hartford.
- The Board concluded eleven agency audits for FY 2018
  - Department of Rehabilitation Services - State unit on Aging
  - Department of Agriculture
  - Department of Consumer Protection
  - Office of Early Childhood
  - Elections Enforcement Commission
  - Office of State Ethics
  - Connecticut State Library
  - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
  - Department of Motor Vehicles
  - Teachers' Retirement Board
  - Department of Veteran Affairs
- The Board initiated thirteen agency audits for FY 2019
  - Agricultural Experiment Station
  - Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology
  - Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
  - Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
  - Office of Health Strategy
  - Office of Policy and Management
  - Department of Public Health

- Department of Insurance
- Department of Aging and Disability Services
- Department of Revenue Services
- Workers' Compensation Commission
- Division of Criminal Justice
- Department of Labor