



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor

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Recent News

- In addition to the Ethics Officer Conference described below, the OEIG will also make presentations to managers at the Illinois Department of Transportation's Executive Leadership Development Series on April 23, 2020.

OEIG Investigates Steering of State Contract



In a founded report recently publicly released by the Executive Ethics Commission, the OEIG investigated allegations that a services contract was steered to retired Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) employee Don Williams by employees at the Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB) and IDPH. IDPH provides support services for the HFSRB, including the services at issue in this procurement—operation of a particular HFSRB database.

The OEIG discovered that HFSRB Administrator Courtney Avery drafted the procurement specifications to be unduly restrictive, so that Mr. Williams would be one of the few vendors, if not the only one, who could meet them. In addition, the OEIG discovered that then-IDPH Deputy Director Bill Dart and IDPH Public Service Administrator Debbie Magerl were aware of the specification problems, but had failed to take action. Ultimately, the OEIG concluded that Ms. Avery, Mr. Dart, and Ms. Magerl improperly prevented competition in the procurement. The OEIG also found that Ms. Magerl improperly guided Mr. Williams on drafting his resume that was submitted in his bid.

In response to the report, the Governor's Office appointed a Chair to the HFSRB to fill the previously vacant position. Ms. Avery completed training on hiring and procurement. Mr. Williams' contract was voided, and IDPH stated that it intended to counsel Ms. Magerl, and to implement procurement training for Ms. Magerl, Ms. Avery, and HFSRB-associated staff.

A copy of the report, [In re: Courtney Avery, William Dart, and Debbie Magerl \(Case #18-01396\)](#), is available on the OEIG's website.

OEIG to Present at Ethics Officer Conference in Springfield

Representatives from the OEIG are scheduled to participate in the Executive Ethics Commission's Ethics Officer Conference on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 in Springfield.

Hiring & Employment Monitoring Division Director Erin Bonales is planning to present on current State hiring policies and procedures together with a representative of the Department of Central Management Services. General Counsel Neil Olson will participate in a session with the Office of the Governor on the duties of ethics officers. OEIG staff, including Executive Inspector General Susan Haling, will be available at the conclusion of the conference for more informal "office hours" for attendees to ask more specific questions.

The OEIG appreciates the continued opportunity to partner with the EEC and other State officials to provide guidance and training to ethics officers at this conference.