



## Vermont State Ethics Commission

Minutes of May 4, 2022

6 Baldwin Street, Montpelier, VT

**Call to Order:** The meeting, held remotely via Zoom, was called to order by Paul Erlbaum, Chair, at 10:03 a.m. Also present for the meeting were Commissioners Sarah Biolsi Vangel, Christopher Davis, Michele Eid, Executive Director Christina Sivret, and Administrative Assistant Carolyn Desch.

**Approval of Minutes:** On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Sarah Vangel, minutes of the February 2, 2022, meeting were approved. On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Sarah Vangel, minutes of the February 14, 2022, meeting were approved. On the motion of Christopher Davis, second by Sarah Vangel, minutes of the April 6, 2022, meeting were approved.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Executive Director's Report:** Open Commission Seat: Commissioner Ze Anderson-Brown resigned in April, leaving an open seat on the Commission. SHRM, the appointing authority has started the search for a replacement. S. 171: The State Code of Ethics, was signed by Governor Phil Scott on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Training Development: The priority for the next two months is to have a training on the Code of Ethics for State employees and public servants in place by the time it goes into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. TJ Jones, consultant to the Ethics Commission for the past several years, has signed on to help with content development, including a survey of national trends and best practices in ethics trainings. The Executive Director has reached out to CAPS and NiC to discuss collaboration on training content and the technical aspects of developing training modules. NiC is also working with the Commission on upgrading the website. Financial Disclosure Form: A meeting with the SoS's office to review the candidate financial disclosure form is planned for later this month. Advisory Opinions: Once training development has moved off the priority list, the Commission will look at Advisory Opinions. Conflicts of interest in relation to Boards and Commissions might be a good starting place as the Commission frequently gets questions on this topic. Annual Conference: The COGEL Conference is slated for 12/4-12/7 in Montreal. Christopher Davis, Michele Eid expressed interest in attending in addition to Chris Sivret and Carolyn Desch.

**Executive Session:** On the motion of Michele Eid, second by Christopher Davis, the Commission went into executive session to discuss personnel matters. On the motion of Sarah Vangel, seconded by Michele Eid, the Commission voted to conclude the Executive Session and returned to Open Session.

**Other Business:** Discussion re draft Complaint and Privacy and Data Protection procedures was tabled until the July meeting. No formal complaints were filed this month. The Commission will skip the June meeting as there is no pressing business. Paul suggested an in-person celebration in August. Will discuss closer to the time.

**Adjournment:** Michele Eid moved to adjourn, second by Sarah Vangel. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.