

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Roll Call

- Meeting Members in Attendance: Eva Bermudez Zimmerman, Easha Canada, Adrienne Cochrane, Andrea Comer, Sheila Hummel, Ellen McKitterick, Fran Pastore, David Salazar-Austin, Mike Soltis, Molly Weston Williamson, Holly Williams, Janée Woods Weber, Justin Zartman
- Meeting Members Absent: Eleanor Michael, Melissa Ziobron
- CT Paid Leave Staff Present: Erin Choquette, Michael Cisar, Amber Forrest, Madeline Granato, David Marcone, Stephanie Oliveras, Loc Pho, Jessica Vargas

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Call to Order

Board Chair Fran Pastore called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Executive Assistant Amber Forrest took attendance by roll call and confirmed the existence of a quorum. Ms. Pastore acknowledged the members of the public in attendance.

Review & Approve March 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Pastore asked the board for a review of the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes. Molly Weston Williamson motioned to approve the minutes, and Holly Williams seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. None opposed. Easha Canada abstained. All but Ms. Canada were in favor. The motion carried.

Discussion and Vote to Adopt the Proposed FY 26-27 Budget

Controller David Marcone reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and asked the board for a vote to approve the proposed budget. In response to the Board's question about the increase in the budget for fund recovery expenses, Mr. Marcone explained the increase was related to anticipated costs for litigation, recently authorized by the board. Mr. Marcone also acknowledged that the budget includes the projection that claims-related expenses will continue to grow and reported that Authority staff are working with the Spring Group to assess potential future trends and options. Ms. Pastore asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-2027. Andrea Comer motioned and Sheila Hummel seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. None opposed. None abstained. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Discussion and Vote Regarding Salary Increases for Non-bargaining Unit Staff to be Consistent with Raises Negotiated for Bargaining Unit Staff

CEO Erin Choquette explained that the Office of Policy Management (OPM) has negotiated with the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) to negotiate raises for unionized employees in the state, including the unionized employees of the Authority. Consistent with the State Personnel Act, OPM and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS), extended those raises to non-represented employees in the Executive Branch. As a quasi-public agency, however, the Authority is not covered by the DAS/OPM action. Accordingly, Ms. Choquette asked the Board to authorize the extension of the bargained-for raises to non-bargaining union staff. After discussion by the board members, Ms. Pastore asked for a motion to approve the salary increases for non-bargaining unit staff retroactive to July 1, 2025, to be consistent with the raises of bargaining unit staff. Andrea Comer motioned and Holly Williams seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. None opposed. None abstained. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Discussion and Vote to Post the Proposed Revisions to the Consolidated Policies in the Connecticut Law Journal for Public Comment

General Counsel Michael Cisar presented the proposed revisions to the consolidated policies, which included the following:

- Group 1- Grammer/Consistency/Statutory Construction
- Group 2- Clarification of language without changing intent
- Group 2- Specific clarifying language for school employers
- Group 3- Process updates

There was a robust conversation about the proposed changes, including some suggestions regarding issues to be considered before voting on the adoption of the policy revisions. Because the motion before the board, however, is simply to authorize the posting of the proposed changes for public comment, the consensus was that the Authority should post the current draft for public comment without further alteration at this time.

Ms. Pastore asked for a motion to approve the proposed revisions to the consolidated policies Eva Bermudez Zimmerman motioned and Ms. Williams seconded that motion. There was no further discussion. None opposed. None abstained. All were in favor. The motion carried.

Quarterly Outreach and Engagement Update

Chief Experience Officer Jessica Vargas and Government & Community Relations Manager Madeline Granato provided the quarterly outreach and engagement update which included the following:

- Event Update
- Employer Outreach Update
- Community Education Coordinators (CEC) Update
- Focus on Caregiving
- Healthcare Outreach
- Healthcare Providers Page

Legislative Update

Ms. Granato provided the legislative update through slide presentation.

Committee Reports

Policy & Personnel

David Salazar-Austin reported that the committee met this month and received the proposed revisions to the consolidated policies that Mr. Cisar provided today. The next scheduled meeting is on July 7th.

Outreach & Engagement

Eva Bermudez Zimmerman reported that the Committee did not meet last month due to the every-other-month meeting cadence. The next scheduled meeting is May 21st.

Finance & Audit

Ms. Williams reported that the committee met last month and received the proposed budget for Fiscal year 2026-2027 which was presented today. We also received the presentation of the regular financial reports. Mr. Marcone shared the following financial reports:

- Actual to Budget Operating Funds for the Month of March 2026
- Actual to Budget Bond Funds for the Month of March 2026
- Bond Schedule (Inception to Date)
- Actual to Budget Contribution Trust Funds for the Month of March 2026
- Contribution Schedule (Inception to Date)
- Statement of Fiduciary Net Position as of March 2026
- Operating Projection FY2026
- Contribution Projection for FY2026
- Draft expenditures and contributions for April 2026

CEO Report

Ms. Choquette announced that she will be presenting at a Shaping CT's Future event hosted at Southern State University on Friday, May 15th.

Ms. Choquette reminded the board that the CT Paid Leave Act specifies that the initial term for board members was four years and thereafter members are appointed for a three-year term. Accordingly, in the next few weeks, the Authority will contact each of the appointing authorities regarding their designations.

Finally, Ms. Choquette announced that she will be taking a vacation at the end of the month and, pursuant to the resolution regarding the temporary delegation of authority by the CEO approved by the board in 2023, she will delegate authority to John Simonetti to ensure that the weekly benefit payments and other contractual obligations are not delayed due to her absence.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Ms. Pastore asked the board for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Comer motioned, and Ms. Weston Williamson seconded that motion. All were in favor. None opposed. None abstained. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

[Meeting Recording Link at https://youtu.be/rWKWXVOI8dE](https://youtu.be/rWKWXVOI8dE)

Attachments

- *Item #3- Proposed FY26-27 Budget*
- *Item# 5- Proposed Revisions to the Consolidate Policies*
- *Item #6- Quarterly Outreach and Engagement Update*
- *Item #7- Legislative Update*
- *Item #8- March Financial Report*