# State of Colorado

Jared Polis Governor

Sarah Wager Board Chair

Rick Dindinger Board Director

August 2, 2021

The Honorable Jared Polis Governor of the State of Colorado 136 State Capitol Building Denver, Colorado 80203

#### **RE: Annual Whistleblower Report**

**Dear Governor Polis:** 

Attached is the State Personnel Board's Whistleblower Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. This Report is provided pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-50.5-107, a section of the State Employee Protection Act (commonly referred to as the Whistleblower Act).

This Report contains a summary of the actions taken by the State Personnel Board during this past fiscal year relating to claims under the Whistleblower Act. The Board found one violation of the Whistleblower Act during Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 303-866-5776 or rick.dindinger@state.co.us.

<del>Since</del>rely, ngen lick Dindinger **Board Director** 

cc: State Personnel Board Members Jacki Cooper Melmed, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor Kara Veitch, State Personnel Director Lynne Steketee, Chief Human Resources Officer Amy Zimmer, Colorado State Publications Library



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#### **ANNUAL WHISTLEBLOWER REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR**

TO: The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor

- FROM: The State Personnel Board Rick Dindinger, Director
- PERIOD: July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021

#### INTRODUCTION

We provide this report pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-50.5-107 of the State Employee Protection Act (commonly referred to the "Whistleblower Act," sometimes referred to as "SEPA"). The statute provides that "[t]he state personnel board shall report annually to the governor concerning the complaints filed, hearings held, and actions taken pursuant to this article." This report encompasses whistleblower matters pending with the State Personnel Board on July 1, 2020, and all new whistleblower matters filed from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Unless necessary to indicate the posture of a pending matter, this report does not cover actions unrelated to the whistleblower claims such as discovery disputes, procedural orders, and decisions relating to other claims.

#### SUMMARY CHART

	FY 2020-21	FY 2019-20
Number of whistleblower complaints filed with the Board.	24	33
Complaints filed subject to a mandatory Board hearing. <sup>2</sup>	4	14
Complaints filed subject to Board's discretion.	20	19
Complaints dismissed voluntarily.	25	17
Complaints dismissed by Board following preliminary review.	3	7
Complaints dismissed by Board for procedural reasons. <sup>3</sup>	8	7
Evidentiary hearings of whistleblower complaints.	4	0
Board decisions finding a whistleblower violation.	1	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unshaded rows tally filings during the fiscal year. Shaded rows tally outcomes during the fiscal year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The State Personnel Board uses different letters in its case numbering to indicate the type of appeal. "**B**" in the case number indicates matters where the employee has a mandatory right to a Board hearing, such as a loss of pay. "**G**" indicates discretionary matters where the employee does not have a right to a hearing, such as a petition to review a grievance decision. "**S**" indicates a discretionary matter where an applicant disputes a selection decision and alleges a violation of rights under the Whistleblower Act or the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (often referred to as "CADA"). A "(**c**)" in the case number indicates that separate appeals have been consolidated into a single matter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Reasons include lack of jurisdiction, untimeliness, abandonment, and other procedural reasons.

#### CASES PENDING FROM FY 17-18 (July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018)

#### Michelle Muller v. Department of Corrections, 2018B012 - This case went to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- September 15, 2017. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting alleged use of a state vehicle for personal use in violation of state policy.
- December 4, 2017. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- November 5-7, 2018. Evidentiary hearing.
- December 31, 2018. ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the termination and denying a violation of the Whistleblower Act.
- May 21, 2019. The State Personnel Board affirmed the Initial Decision of ALJ.
- June 7, 2019. Complainant filed an Appeal to the Colorado Court of Appeals, COA Case No. 2019CA1045.
- August 12, 2020. The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments.
- August 27, 2020. The Court of Appeals affirmed the Board.

# Patricia Tippins v. Department of Corrections, 2018B059(c) - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- December 7, 2017. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint following a transfer to a different facility. The State Personnel Board assigned the appeal as SPB **2018G034**. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting that a dangerous offender was inappropriately "graduated" from a therapeutic program.
- February 12, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- March 26, 2018. Complainant appealed a demotion. The State Personnel Board assigned the appeal as SPB 2018B059. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting concerns about a dangerous offender whose treatment was allegedly fast-tracked.
- April 18, 2018. Order consolidating SPB 2018B059 with SPB 2018G034.
- May 31, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the second whistleblower complaint.
- June 4, 2018. Order consolidating SPB 2018B059(c) with SPB 2018S056.
- June 7, 2018. Complainant filed another whistleblower complaint relating to a performance evaluation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for the prior disclosures.
- July 27, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the third whistleblower complaint.
- February 5, 2019. CCRD issued no probable cause determination.
- July 19, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2018B059(c) with SPB 2020S001.
- April 6, 2020. Due to COVID-19, ALJ vacated evidentiary hearing.
- February 17, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Complainant filed a motion to dismiss.
- February 17, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case

# Angel Medina v. Department of Corrections, 2018G051(c) - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

• February 16, 2018. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint following an alleged withholding of work assignments. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting an alleged improper storage of electronic waste at a correctional facility.

- April 9, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- April 18, 2018. Complainant filed a second whistleblower complaint following a performance dispute. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting an alleged improper storage of electronic waste at a correctional facility.
- May 4, 2018. Complainant filed a third whistleblower complaint.
- June 7, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the second and third whistleblower complaints.
- Complainant filed additional whistleblower complaints and Respondent filed additional responses.
- June 3, 2019. Respondent filed its response to Complainant's seventh whistleblower claim.
- July 11, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2018G051(c) with SPB 2019G080.
- August 5, 2019. Respondent filed its response to Complainant's eighth whistleblower claim.
- December 20, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2018G051(c) with SPB 2020S017.
- March 2, 2020. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to grant a hearing on some of Complainant's claims.
- March 17, 2020. The State Personnel Board issued an order adopting the ALJ's recommendation.
- April 3, 2020. Order consolidating SPB **2018G051(c)** with SPB **2020B039**, and setting hearing.
- December 14, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- December 15, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Keith Nordell v. Department of Human Services, 2018G073(c) - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- April 27, 2018. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint following a revocation of his trial service status and a separation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosures about alleged system mismanagement, salary inequities, and problems with patient competency evaluations.
- June 12, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- May 6, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2018G073 with SPB 2019S001.
- June 27, 2019. Following the CCRD's investigation, ALJ set the matter for review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45.
- September 25, 2019. ALJ found Complainant had a mandatory right to hearing as a result of the separation.
- April 30, 2020. Order scheduling evidentiary hearing.
- October 22, 2020. Order rescheduling evidentiary hearing due to witness unavailability.
- May 20, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Complainant filed a motion to dismiss.
- May 24, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Patricia Tippins v. Department of Corrections, 2018S056 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

• May 14, 2018. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a non-selection. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosures concerning an offender allegedly being "pushed through" therapeutic community, and for complaints of discrimination based on disability. • June 4, 2018. Order consolidating SPB 2018S056 with SPB 2018B059(c).

#### CASES PENDING FROM FY 18-19 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)

#### Theresa Stephens v. Department of Personnel & Administration, 2019B083 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- April 29, 2019. Complainant appealed a forced resignation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing alleged errors in a new collections system.
- July 15, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- January 24, 2020. The CCRD's statutory period to investigate the matter expired.
- March 23, 2020. ALJ set the matter for an evidentiary hearing.
- July 14, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- July 15, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Gerard Trujillo v. Department of Corrections, 2019B096 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- June 11, 2019. Complainant appealed a forced resignation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged deficiencies with the training program for offenders, including possible fraud.
- October 11, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- May 21, 2020. Following the CCRD's investigation, ALJ set the matter for a scheduling conference.
- June 3, 2020. ALJ vacated scheduling conference and ordered parties to brief if matter should be set for review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45.
- August 31, 2020. Order scheduling evidentiary hearing.
- March 30, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Complainant filed a motion to dismiss.
- April 1, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case.

# Michael Walsh v. Department of Corrections, 2019G060 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- April 8, 2019. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a grievance decision. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting that an individual was allegedly violating medical orders and making unauthorized changes to prescriptions.
- May 28, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- April 15, 2020. CCRD issued no probable cause opinion.
- October 27, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Complainant filed a motion to dismiss.
- October 27, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Angel Medina v. Department of Corrections, 2019G080 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- June 21, 2019. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a performance evaluation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for filing a whistleblower claim in SPB **2018G051(c)**.
- July 11, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2019G080 with SPB 2018G051(c).

#### Keith Nordell v. Department of Human Services, 2019S001 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 2, 2018. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to two non-selections. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for filing a whistleblower claim in SPB **2018G073**.
- August 24, 2018. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- October 4, 2018. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to another nonselection. This whistleblower complaint asserts Respondent retaliated for filing a whistleblower claim in SPB **2018G073**.
- May 6, 2019. Order consolidating SPB **2019S001** with SPB **2018G073**.

#### CASES PENDING FROM FY 19-20

(July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020)

#### Amy Vincze v. Department of Revenue, 2020B016 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- August 29, 2019. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for statements about management's lack of communication.
- October 28, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- July 31, 2020. At the conclusion of discovery, Respondent filed an unopposed motion to dismiss the whistleblower claim.
- August 4, 2020. ALJ dismissed the whistleblower claim.

#### Duane Sinning v. Department of Agriculture, 2020B023 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- September 23, 2019. Complainant appealed a demotion. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for supporting a state audit of the department's pesticide program.
- November 12, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- April 29, 2020. Order rescheduling evidentiary hearing because of COVID-19.
- November 13, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- November 16, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Angel Medina v. Department of Corrections, 2020B039(c) - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- November 1, 2019. Complainant appealed a \$500/month pay reduction for twelve months. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting an alleged improper storage of electronic waste at a correctional facility.
- December 12, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- March 3, 2020. Order consolidating SPB 2020G047 with SPB 2020B039.
- April 3, 2020. Order consolidating SPB 2020B039(c) with SPB 2018G051(c).

#### Sandra Ruby v. Department of Revenue, 2020B055 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- December 11, 2019. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for filing a concern on the fraud hotline.
- January 27, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- November 5, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case for abandonment.

#### Ann Greco v. University of Colorado Boulder, 2020B062(c) - This case went to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- January 31, 2020. Complainant appealed a disciplinary action that reduced pay for approximately three months. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing mismanagement issues and issues with the workplace environment.
- February 25, 2020. Order consolidating SPB **2020B062** with SPB **2020G053**, an appeal that does not assert a whistleblower complaint.
- April 10, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- June 30, 2020. Order consolidating SPB 2020B062(c) with SPB 2020B084.
- October 5-7 and 9, 2020. Evidentiary hearing.
- February 19, 2021. ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the disciplinary actions and denying a violation of the Whistleblower Act.
- April 22, 2021. Order of dismissal.

# Liza Alarid v. Department of Corrections, 2020B067 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- February 24, 2020. Complainant appealed a disciplinary termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing another employee allegedly stealing prescription medications and disclosing that the pharmacy was not in compliance with regulatory standards.
- April 13, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- September 3, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- September 8, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Jennifer Henson v. Department of Regulatory Agencies, 2020B079 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- April 24, 2020. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining to the U.S. Department of Labor about alleged FMLA violations.
- June 29, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- September 22, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- September 22, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Ann Greco v. University of Colorado Boulder, 2020B084 - This case went to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- April 24, 2020. Complainant appealed an administrative separation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing mismanagement issues and concerns with the workplace environment.
- June 29, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- June 30, 2020. Order consolidating SPB 2020B084 with SPB 2020B062(c).

#### Susan Franzen v. Department of Human Services, 2020B085 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- May 11, 2020. Complainant appealed an alleged forced resignation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing alleged nepotism.
- July 1, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction.

#### Mona Sadeghpour v. University of Colorado Denver, 2020B087 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- May 11, 2020. Complainant appealed a layoff. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing alleged unprofessional conduct and bullying.
- July 1, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction.

#### Kirsten Gregg v. Department of Revenue, 2020G009 - This case went to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 24, 2019. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint disputing a transfer. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for public comments at a Colorado Limited Gaming Control Commission meeting that raised concerns about the use of gaming funds for matters outside of statutory and constitutional mandates.
- September 13, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- December 2, 2019. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to grant the petition for hearing.
- December 17, 2019. The State Personnel Board issued an order adopting the ALJ's recommendation.
- July 21 to July 23, 2020. Evidentiary hearing.
- September 21, 2020. ALJ issued an Initial Decision finding a Whistleblower Act violation and ordering Complainant reinstated to her former position.

#### Angel Medina v. Department of Corrections, 2020G047 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- December 30, 2019. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint disputing a 2019-2020 mid-year performance evaluation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for reporting an alleged improper storage of electronic waste at a correctional facility.
- February 11, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- March 3, 2020. Order consolidating SPB 2020G047 with SPB 2020B039.

#### Angel Medina v. Department of Corrections, 2020G063 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- March 18, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to an administrative leave. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for filing a prior whistleblower claim with the Board and for reporting an alleged improper storage of electronic waste at a correctional facility.
- April 17, 2020. Order staying review pending completion of third party investigation.
- December 14, 2020. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- December 15, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Kervyn Dimney v. Office of Information Technology, 2020G074 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- March 18, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a grievance decision. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged deceptiveness in communications regarding the length of a project and alleged project mismanagement.
- July 13, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- October 7, 2020. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to grant the petition for hearing.
- October 20, 2020. The State Personnel Board issued an order adopting the ALJ's recommendation.
- December 1, 2020. Order scheduling evidentiary hearing.
- May 25, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- May 25, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Patricia Tippins v. Department of Corrections, 2020S001 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 3, 2019. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a non-selection. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for filing a prior whistleblower claim with the Board.
- July 19, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2020S001 with SPB 2018B059(c).

#### Angel Medina v. Department of Corrections, 2020S017 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- November 12, 2019. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a nonselection. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for filing a prior whistleblower claim with the Board and for reporting an alleged improper storage of electronic waste at a correctional facility.
- December 12, 2019. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- December 20, 2019. Order consolidating SPB 2020S017 with SPB 2018G051(c).

#### Matthew Valdez v. Department of Corrections, 2020S043 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- June 8, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a non-selection. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for raising security concerns about an employee and a possible security breach.
- July 1, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction.

#### CASES FILED IN FY 20-21

#### (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021)

#### Ashley Brock-Baca v. Department of Human Services, 2021B030 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- October 12, 2020. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged mismanagement of funds.
- December 31, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- May 25, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Respondent filed a motion to dismiss.
- May 25, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Gu Kim v. Department of Public Safety, 2021B031 - This case went to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- October 12, 2020. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about bias and retaliation.
- December 7, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- May 3-4, 2021. Evidentiary hearing.

#### Michael Gallik v. Governor's Office of Information Technology, 2021B034 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- November 24, 2020. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged misuse of contract employees.
- December 31, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case for lack of jurisdiction.

#### Kathleen McCain v. Department of Human Services, 2021B053 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- April 16, 2021. Complainant appealed a resignation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about a co-workers conduct.
- June 4, 2021. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint

# Therese Pae v. Department of Human Services, 2021G002 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 6, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint asserting Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged fraud.
- August 28, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- December 14, 2020. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to deny the petition for hearing.
- January 11, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and filed a joint motion to dismiss.
- January 11, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Shannon Dye v. Department of Corrections, 2021G003 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 7, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to her annual evaluation and performance improvement plan. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged safety risks to patients.
- August 28, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- November 2, 2020. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to deny the petition for hearing.
- November 18, 2020. The State Personnel Board issued an order adopting the ALJ's recommendation.

# Christina Heltzel v. Department of Natural Resources, 2021G013 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 19, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to a performance evaluation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing issues related to another employee's travel expenses and concerns regarding the procurement processes.
- September 8, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- November 25, 2020. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to deny the petition for hearing.
- December 15, 2020. The State Personnel Board issued an order adopting the ALJ's recommendation.

#### Kasey McCune v. Department of Labor & Employment, 2021G017 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

 July 31, 2020. Complainant filed a whistleblower complaint relating to her termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about another employee and regarding favoritism.

- September 16, 2020. Respondent filed an unopposed motion to dismiss on grounds that Complainant wished to withdraw the complaint.
- September 17, 2020. ALJ dismissed the case

# Karen Mullen v. Department of Corrections, 2021G025 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- September 10, 2020. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged harassment.
- November 30, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- February 2, 2021. Complainant filed a Charge of Discrimination with the CCRD.

# Veronica Chulata-Castinado v. Department of Human Services, 2021G030 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- October 13, 2020. Complainant appealed a termination. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about insufficient training and supervision.
- November 23, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- January 15, 2021. ALJ dismissed case for procedural reasons.

# Jeff Blanford v. Department of Education, 2021G036 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- December 3, 2020. Complainant appealed an alleged loss of authority, an alleged exclusion from meetings, and a reassignment to a different supervisor. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about alleged conflicts of interest in the management structure and alleged internal control failures.
- January 25, 2021. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- May 5, 2021. The parties reached a settlement agreement and Complainant filed a motion to dismiss.
- May 7, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case.

# Grace Novotny v. Department of Corrections, 2021G039 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- January 7, 2021. Complainant appealed a mid-year performance evaluation and other alleged adverse actions. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about misconduct by management.
- February 26, 2021. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- June 14, 2021. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to grant the petition for hearing.

# Marcus Maes v. Department of Transportation, 2021G043 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- February 12, 2021. Complainant appealed a reversion during trail service. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for participating in an investigation of co-workers.
- April 12, 2021. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.

• June 30, 2021. Matter under preliminary review for whether to grant or deny a hearing pursuant to Board Rule 8-45.

#### Diane Pike v. Department of Human Services, 2021G044 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- February 19, 2021. Complainant appealed a corrective action. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing individuals potentially exposed to COVID-19.
- April 12, 2021. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- May 12, 2021. Complainant requested to dismiss the case.
- May 17, 2021. ALJ dismissed the case.

#### Tyler Humphreys v. Department of Human Services, 2021G046 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- March 16, 2021. Complainant appealed the termination of his probationary employment. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for disclosing alleged bullying and disregard for patients' mental health concerns.
- May 3, 2021. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- June 30, 2021. Matter under preliminary review for whether to grant or deny a hearing pursuant to Board Rule 8-45.

#### David Licano v. Department of Corrections, 2021G054 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- May 13, 2021. Complainant appealed a performance evaluation. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about discrimination, about alleged expired training in violation of agency policy, and about failure to test new employees for medical conditions.
- June 30, 2021. Respondent's response to the whistleblower complaint is due on July 9, 2021.

#### Jami Ware v. Department of Corrections, 2021G055 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

• June 7, 2021. Complainant appealed a Rule 6-10 meeting. Complainant asserted that scheduling the Rule 6-10 meeting was retaliatory for objecting to a layoff.

#### Riad Safadi v. University of Colorado Denver, 2021G058 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

• June 10, 2021. Complainant appealed an evaluation that contained negative comments. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about an allegedly improper hiring decision, lack of accountability, and mismanagement.

#### Gwendolyn Londenberg v. Department of Corrections, 2021G060 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

• June 17, 2021. Complainant appealed a Confirming Memorandum. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about an alleged improper placing of an offender in restraints.

#### Sallette Thompson v. Department of Human Services, 2021G062 - This case has not yet gone to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

• June 24, 2021. Complainant appealed a Notice of Rule 6-10 meeting. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for participating in two investigations of sexual abuse and for complaining about improper treatment of a patient.

#### Donna Lynch v. Department of Labor & Employment, 2021S001 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- July 21, 2020. Complainant appealed a rescission of a job offer. Complainant's whistleblower assertions are unclear and relate to her employment at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing that arose twelve years ago.
- August 11, 2020. ALJ dismissed the whistleblower claim for lack of jurisdiction.

#### Julie Phillips v. Department of Labor & Employment, 2021S010 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- September 22, 2020. Complainant appealed a non-selection. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining about the hiring process.
- November 6, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- November 30, 2020. Respondent filed an unopposed motion to dismiss the whistleblower claim.
- December 1, 2020. ALJ dismissed the whistleblower claim.

#### Erin Starzyk v. Department of Public Health & Environment, 2021S012 - *This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.*

- September 30, 2020. Complainant appealed a non-selection. Complainant asserted Respondent retaliated for complaining that the Case Investigation and Outreach team was falsifying gender information in the client database.
- November 30, 2020. Respondent filed its response to the whistleblower complaint.
- February 23, 2021. Following a review pursuant to Board Rule 8-45, ALJ issued a Preliminary Recommendation to grant the petition for hearing.
- March 16, 2021. The State Personnel Board issued an order rejecting the ALJ's recommendation and denying a hearing.
- April 20, 2021. Complainant filed a Notice of Appeal with the Colorado Court of Appeals.

# Joshua Gius v. Department of Human Services, 2021S032 - This case did not go to an evidentiary hearing on the whistleblower complaint.

- February 17, 2021. Complainant appealed a non-selection. Complainant's appeal included a whistleblower complaint form but the whistleblower allegations were unclear.
- April 6, 2021. ALJ dismissed the whistleblower claim.