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Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Kraig Knowlton, Director, Office of Personnel Services
Cheryl Whelan, Director, Office of Administrative Hearings
Ray Melugin, Chairperson, Civil Service Board

From: Loren F. Snell, Jr., Secretary, Civil Service Board

Date: April 28, 2021

Re: Quarterly Update

The following quarterly report reflects the Civil Service Board case filings and action taken between January 15, 2021 and April 14, 2021:

A. Cases Filed Between January 15, 2021 and April 14, 2021:

Colene Adams, termination, Department for Children and Families, filed February 22, 2021.

Jeffrey Brenner, termination, Department of Corrections, filed March 4, 2021.

Arwen Riddell, termination, Department of Corrections, filed March 15, 2021.

Tiffany Veduzco, termination, Department of Corrections, filed March 26, 2021.

B. Cases Decided and/or Disposed of:

Jeffrey Brenner, termination, Department of Corrections

Corrections Officer 1B. Brenner was terminated by the Warden from his position as a Corrections Officer 1B at the Oswego Correctional Facility. An annual Candidate NCIC Background Check was conducted on Brenner, at which time it was learned Brenner had a Protection Order issued against him on November 3, 2020. Brenner failed to report this to the Agency in violation of Agency policy. During a prehearing conference conducted on April 5, 2021 the Agency advised that the matter had been resolved. Brenner failed to appear at the prehearing conference. Finding that the matter was now moot, the case was dismissed, and the matter closed without further hearing.

Angel Gray, termination, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Economic & Employment Services Performance Improvement Case Reader. Gray was terminated by the West Region Director from her position as Economic & Employment Services Performance Improvement Case Reader for the Kansas Department for Children and Families. Gray was issued a substantiated finding of fiduciary abuse of her elderly parents and her name was placed on the Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Registry of Substantiated Adult Perpetrators. As a result, Grays's security clearance was revoked, and Gray was no longer able to be employed by the Agency. The matter was continued while Gray appealed the substantiated findings. Upon affirmation of the substantiated findings, Gray withdrew her appeal. The matter was closed without further hearing.

Arwen Riddell, termination, Kansas Department of Corrections

Corrections Officer II. Riddell was terminated by the Warden from his position as Corrections Officer II at the Lansing Correctional Facility. Riddell was found to have engaged in activities that were or could be disruptive or disturb the normal operation of the facility. Riddell was also found to have engaged in activities detrimental to state service which could cause undue disruption of work or endanger the safety of persons or property. The matter was set for a prehearing conference on April 14, 2021. Riddell failed to call in and participate in the prehearing conference and was found to be in default in accordance with K.S.A. 77-520. This case was closed without further hearing.

Dwayne Rollins, termination, Kansas Schools for the Deaf and Blind

Cook Senior. Rollins was terminated by the Superintendent from his position as Cook Senior at the Kansas School for the Blind (KSSB). Rollins was alleged to have engaged in conduct detrimental to state service and deficiencies in his work performance. A hearing was conducted over a period of three (3) days. At the conclusion of the hearing the Civil Service Board reversed the action by the KSSB and modified the discipline as follows: Rollins was suspended for a period of thirty (30) days without pay beginning on September 23, 2019, after which Rollins was to be reinstated with full pay and benefits. KSSB sought reconsideration of the decision by the Civil Service Board, which was denied.

C. Cases to be Heard:

Colene Adams, termination, Department for Children and Families. Prehearing conference set for June 2, 2021.

Freddie Glover, demotion, Department of Corrections. Evidentiary hearing set for May 5-6, 2021.

Tiffany Verduzco, termination, Department of Corrections. Prehearing conference set for May 21, 2021. A Motion to Dismiss or for Summary Judgment is currently pending.

D. Statistics for Completed Cases:

Action Taken by Agency:
Dismissals: 4
Suspensions:
Demotions:

Action Taken on Appeal:
Affirmed:
Reversed:
Modified: 1
Dismissed: 1
Withdrawn: 1
Default: 1

Agency:
Board of Indigents Defense Services:
Commission on Veterans Affairs:
Department for Aging and Disability Services:
Department for Children and Families: 1
Department of Commerce:
Department of Corrections: 2
Department of Health and Environment:
Department of Revenue:
Department of Transportation:
Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism:
Kansas Bureau of Investigation:
Kansas State Library:
Kansas State School for the Blind: 1