

LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

July 26, 2021

The Legislative Performance Audit and Oversight Committee met on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 11:00 AM in Room 100 of the State House.

Members in attendance were as follows:

Sen. John Reagan, Chair
Sen. Bob Giuda
Sen. Erin Hennessey
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Rep. Ken Weyler
Rep. Keith Erf
Rep. Lucy Weber

The meeting convened at 11:00 AM.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL 30, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:

Senator Hennessey made a motion, seconded by Representative Weyler, to approve the minutes, of the April 30, 2021 meeting, as corrected. Representative Erf informed the committee he was not at the meeting and should be taken off the draft minutes as being in attendance.

MOTION ADOPTED.

CURRENT STATUS OF ONGOING PERFORMANCE AUDITS:

Stephen Smith, Director of Audits, informed the committee members of two audits currently in process; the Board of Dental Examiners; and the Child Care Licensing Unit. The field work and observations for the Board of Dental Examiners is in process. An agreement with the LBA and the Board was made, and as observations are prepared, they are being sent to Board for their response. The monthly Board meetings has created some inefficiencies in the audit process. It is anticipated that a draft report will be given to the Board by mid to late October and presented to the Fiscal Committee before the end of the year. The final report most likely will be lengthy.

The Child Care Licensing Unit scope statement is ready to be discussed. Audit planning has already begun. The LBA and DHHS spent some time drafting and signing a letter of agreement regarding protecting program data to alleviate HIPPA related security and confidentiality concerns. In responding to a question from Senator Giuda, Steve Smith said this agreement does not limit LBA's access to program data.

VOTE ON DRAFT SCOPE STATEMENT FOR CHILD CARE LICENSING UNIT:

Stephen Smith briefed the Committee and responded to questions regarding the scope statement on the Child Care Licensing Unit

An email sent by Senator Kahn made several suggestions to be considered for the scope statement. Vilay Skidds, Senior Audit Manager and in-charge auditor of the Child Care Licensing Unit audit, responded to the suggestions and agreed that without broadening the scope, the LBA would be able to include and identify reasons why the number of child care facilities decreased over the audit period.

Senator Hennessey presented a request to provide the capacity versus enrollment numbers for the child care centers. Vilay Skidds informed the Committee that they should be able to provide these numbers.

Representative Weyler made a motion, seconded by Senator D'Allesandro, that the scope statement for the Child Care Licensing Unit performance audit be accepted.

MOTION ADOPTED.

APRIL 30, 2021 AUDIT TOPICS THE COMMITTEE REQUESTED FURTHER RESEARCH ON:

Jay Henry, Performance Audit Supervisor, updated the Committee and presented them with additional information regarding the Weatherization Program and Fixed-Wing Aircraft Program. The Committee generally discussed each program, and it was agreed that these two audit topics would be tabled and decided upon at a later meeting.

AUDIT TOPICS VOTED ON DURING THE MARCH 12, 2021 MEETING WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SENT TO THE FISCAL COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL, AWAITING FURTHER LPAOC ACTION:

Jay Henry informed the committee of the three audit topics that were tabled at the previous meeting: 1) the Retirement System Investments; 2) Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services & Choices For Independence; and 3) the Mental Health Workforce Development.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Retirement System Investments and the Mental Health Workforce Development audit topics will continue to be tabled.

Senator Giuda drafted language to be considered in a scope statement for the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services audit and discussed potential action to move forward. Jay Henry informed the Committee the LBA will begin drafting a formal scope statement for the next meeting.

Senator D'Allesandro made a motion, seconded by Senator Giuda, to move forward with the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services & Choices For Independence audit.

MOTION ADOPTED

IDENTIFY AND VOTE ON NEW AUDIT TOPICS:

Stephen Smith informed the Committee that with the approval to move forward with the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services & Choices For Independence audit that it would carry us through the end of the calendar year. Jay Henry informed the Committee that new audit topics will be needed by December/January timeframe.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Senator Reagan congratulated the LBA for receiving the National Legislature Performance Evaluation Society 2021 Impact Award for our 2019 Therapeutic Cannabis Program performance audit.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be at the call of the Chair.

Senator Reagan adjourned the meeting at 11:43 PM.

Sen. John Reagan, Vice Chair