

Government Oversight Committee
(Joint Legislative Committee on Program Evaluation
and Government Accountability)

Meeting Summary
May 23, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

The Co-chair, Rep. Dugay, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:13 p.m. in the Labor Committee Room.

ATTENDANCE

Senators: Sen. Raye, Sen. Dow
Absent: Sen. Gagnon, Sen. Perry, Sen. Mitchell, Sen. Courtney

Representatives: Rep. Dugay, Rep. O'Brien, Rep. Trahan, Rep. Canavan
Absent: (Representatives Collins and Crosthwaite joined meeting in progress)

Legislative Officers and Staff: Beth Ashcroft, Director, OPEGA
Diana Stiles Friou, Principal Analyst, OPEGA
Lorna Pelkey, Administrative Secretary, OPEGA

SUMMARY OF April 25th MEETING

The Committee did not request any changes.

REPORT FROM OPEGA DIRECTOR

The Director advised the Committee of OPEGA's important schedule dates related to the following activities:

- Guardian Ad Litem Review;
- RFP for the Information Systems Review;
- Hiring of additional OPEGA positions; and
- Development of OPEGA's Annual Work Plan.

She pointed out a table showing the dates listed under Tab 2. Director Ashcroft indicated that the review of the Guardian Ad Litem project has officially started and that the IT RFP is in progress.

She also stated that the OPEGA website is coming along nicely. Hopefully, it will be up and running to some extent within the week. A brief discussion ensued related to the hotline

section on the website. The general consensus was that the public would use the hotline as a vehicle to contact OPEGA with their concerns.

Director Ashcroft related that a consultant has been hired to compile a Policies and Procedures Manual for the OPEGA office.

The Director also briefed the Committee on the informational session and open house that OPEGA hosted last week. She mentioned that 17 agency representatives had attended the informational briefing and she feels it was well received. Director Ashcroft has e-mailed the handouts from the briefing to all Agency Liaisons. In response to a question from Rep. Dugay, the Director committed to providing the Committee with the list of those who have been designated as the Liaisons for OPEGA at the next meeting.

The Committee proceeded to discuss the scoped topics. The first topic of discussion was the Federal Review of Title IV-E, Adoption Assistance Maintenance Payments in Maine for the Period July 2000 through June 2003. The Committee had several questions regarding the above topic. However, as the members needed to return to session at this time, the remainder of this meeting will be continued to Thursday, May 26th at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.