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FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE: PROGRAMS, ALLOCATIONS & EXPENDITURES

On October 7, 2008 the Government Oversight Committee considered and unanimously approved a request from the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS) for an OPEGA audit of programs funded from the Fund For A Healthy Maine (FHM).

In planning for this review OPEGA considered the HHS Committee's request that the review include:

- *A broad analysis of the efficacy, efficiency and accountability of all current programs funded by and expenditures from the Fund For A Healthy Maine, including examination of existing state and federal oversight and evaluation; and*
- *A comparison between Maine and other states in terms of the degree to which preventive health services are prioritized in the expenditure of funds from the master tobacco settlement agreement.*

OPEGA refined this request into the following questions which will be the focus of the review:

1. How does Maine compare to other states in terms of the degree to which preventive health services are prioritized in the expenditure of funds from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement?
2. Are existing managerial and oversight systems adequate to help ensure that activities supported by the Fund For A Healthy Maine:
 - are cost-effective and carried out in an efficient and economical manner¹; and
 - have sufficient transparency and accountability for results and expenditures²?

¹ **Cost-effective** is defined as economical in terms of tangible benefits produced by money spent, OR productive or effective in relation to its cost. **Efficient** is defined as acting or producing effectively with a minimum of waste, expense, or unnecessary effort. **Economical** is defined as thrifty in management; not wasteful or extravagant.

² **Transparency** is defined as the state of being transparent - free from pretense or deceit; easily detected or seen through; readily understood; and/or characterized by visibility or accessibility of information especially concerning business practices. **Accountability** is defined as the state of being accountable - subject to giving an account (answerable) and/or capable of being accounted for (explainable).

To produce a timely result for the Legislature, OPEGA plans to provide the information requested in Question 1 in an Information Brief to be released in February 2009. The Information Brief will also include a summary of other information gathered up to that time that may be helpful to the Legislature as it considers the State's Biennial Budget for 2010 – 2011.

OPEGA expects to issue the final report from the performance audit necessary to answer Question 2 in the 2nd Quarter of 2009.