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**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Rapid Response Review of
Communications Regarding MaineCare Computer System Weaknesses
Scope**

At its meeting on April 10, 2012, the Government Oversight Committee (GOC) considered legislative requests for this review. The requests were prompted by concerns over apparent breakdowns in human communication regarding a weakness associated with the new MaineCare claims system (MIHMS), implemented in September 2010, and the MaineCare eligibility system (ACES). That weakness resulted in MaineCare claims payments for clients that had been determined ineligible for benefits. The breakdowns also resulted in the Legislature making difficult decisions about the MaineCare program without knowledge of this problem and its financial impacts on the MaineCare budget. The GOC voted unanimously to add this rapid response review to OPEGA's 2012 Work Plan.

The review will focus on human communications within the Executive Branch, between the Executive Branch and the contractors on the MIHMS project, and between the Executive and Legislative branches in an effort to understand:

- a. the chronology of who knew what and when within the management ranks of the Executive Branch regarding the fact the ACES and MIHMS systems could not interface directly with each other;
- b. what actions any of them took to ensure the problem was corrected or the potential impacts were monitored; and
- c. whether the Legislature's Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Health and Human Services Committees were made aware of this problem and its financial impact prior to March 2012 and if not, why not.

The GOC further directed that OPEGA schedule this review in a manner that would not interfere with current Executive Branch efforts underway to assess the financial impact and report back to the Legislature, nor interfere with OPEGA completing the projects it currently has in progress.

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