

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

Meeting Summary
March 6, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

The Government Oversight Committee's Chair, Sen. Mitchell, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. in the Labor Committee Room.

ATTENDANCE

Senators: Sen. Courtney, Sen. Dow
Sen. Mitchell, Sen. Raye

Absent: Sen. Bartlett, Sen. Perry

Representatives: Rep. Canavan, Rep. Collins,
Rep. Crosthwaite, Rep. DuGay,
Rep. Trahan

Absent: Rep. O'Brien

Legislative Officers and Staff: Beth Ashcroft, Director of OPEGA
Lorna Pelkey, Administrative Secretary - OPEGA

Executive Officer: Richard Thompson, Chief Information Officer

Introduction of Government Oversight Committee Members

Members of the Government Oversight Committee introduced themselves for the benefit of the listening audience.

WORK SESSION ON OPEGA'S FINDINGS TO DATE

Prior to the commencement of the work session, Director Ashcroft reminded the Committee that OPEGA is non-partisan and independent from the GOC. Recognizing that the GOC was currently operating in a highly charged political environment, she wanted to emphasize that OPEGA's findings and recommendations were not driven by any political bias. She noted that she would try to be very cognizant of her words so that OPEGA's intentions would not be misconstrued.

The Senate Chair, Sen. Mitchell, thanked Director Ashcroft for reminding Committee members of OPEGA's role.

Director Ashcroft directed the Committee members to Tab 1 of their notebooks and briefed them on various actions they might considering taking on OPEGA's findings and recommendations to date. She then walked the Committee through a summary of findings and recommendations from the completed reviews on State-wide Information Technology and MECMS Stabilization Reporting. The Committee discussed and decided upon actions to be taken on each and requested that the Director implement those actions on their behalf.

Of the 24 items the GOC considered taking action on, the GOC will send:

- letters to appropriate Joint Standing Committees on 10 management action items requiring the support and oversight of those committees and 2 recommendations that these Committees should consider implementing; and
- letters to leaders of the Judicial and Legislative branches on 2 recommendations that required their support and 6 recommendations the GOC encourages implementing in those branches of government.

REPORT FROM OPEGA DIRECTOR

The consensus of the Committee was to postpone this agenda item which includes a Project Status Report and Proposed Changes to the Annual Plan. This item will instead be covered at the next GOC meeting.

RIVERVIEW REPORT

Director Ashcroft requested that OPEGA the date for issuance of the Final Report on Bed Capacity at Riverview be postponed from March 20th to the GOC's April 3rd meeting to give DHHS time to prepare and present their comments on the Draft Report. The Committee granted the request and, consequently, decided to cancel the March 20th meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Government Oversight Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2006 at 1:00 pm in Room 220 of the Cross Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.