

SEN. CRAIG V. HICKMAN, SENATE CHAIR REP. JESSICA FAY, HOUSE CHAIR

MEMBERS:

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SEN. LISA KEIM
SEN. MIKE TIPPING
SEN. RICHARD BENNETT
SEN. JILL C. DUSON
SEN. JEFFREY TIMBERLAKE
REP. AMY ARATA
REP. H. SAWIN MILLETT, JR.

REP. MARK BLIER REP. ANNE MARIE MASTRACCIO REP. MARGARET M. O'NEIL

# MEETING SUMMARY October 18, 2023

## Call to Order

The Chair, Sen. Hickman, called the Government Oversight Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Senators: Sen. Hickman, Senator Duson, Sen. Tipping, Sen. Timberlake, Sen.

Keim, Sen. Bennett

Representatives: Rep. Fay, Rep. Millett, Rep. O'Neil, Rep. Mastraccio

Absent: Rep. Blier, Rep. Arata

Legislative Staff: Peter Schleck, Director, OPEGA

Jen Henderson, Senior Analyst, OPEGA Kari Hojara, Senior Analyst, OPEGA Sabrina Carey, Secretary, OPEGA

Others: Todd Landry, Director, OCFS, DHHS

Molly Bogart, Government Relations Director, DHHS

## **Introduction of Committee Members**

The members of the Committee introduced themselves.

#### **New Business**

(To watch this meeting - the recorded Live Stream can be viewed here: https://legislature.maine.gov/Audio/#220)

Meeting Summary – September 20, 2023

The September 20, 2023, Meeting Summary was accepted as written.

### • Tax Expenditure Reviews

(A copy of the memo from OPEGA to the GOC regarding Tax topics for this meeting can be found here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10311">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10311</a>)

Sen. Hickman invited OPEGA Senior Analyst Jen Henderson to start the Tax presentation with a refresher on the Tax Expenditure Review process and the changes to that process that resulted from recent legislation.

Ms. Henderson shared a flowchart explaining the Tax Expenditure Review process. (A copy of that flowchart can be found here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10312">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10312</a>). Ms. Henderson then went on to explain the new changes within the Tax Expenditure process that resulted from recent legislation. (A copy of the summary of law changes can be found here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10313">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10313</a>)

Rep. Fay wondered how the new 30-day review would impact the current workload within OPEGA.

Ms. Henderson stated that was a good point and noted that it was one of the things the OPEGA was intending on bringing back to the Committee for further discussion.

Rep. Mastraccio stated that she appreciated this piece of legislation that forces discussions between the TAX Committee and the GOC, or other Committees working with a bill related to Tax Expenditures, as it was missing from the original legislation. She felt it would help future legislators when evaluating new tax incentives.

Sen. Bennett wondered the difference between the competencies of OPEGA as it relates to the work of OFPR (Office of Fiscal and Program Review) staff as they regularly work with the TAX Committee and data from MRS (Maine Revenue Services). He asked if Ms. Henderson could comment on how OPEGA works with OFPR and what pieces of analysis might be resident with OFPR versus what would be uniquely OPEGA.

Ms. Henderson answered that OPEGA works closely with the OFPR staff for the Taxation Committee. She stated that it is an evolving proves because the relationship with OPEGA, the GOC and TAX is different than any other policy committee and is still someone new. She stated that there are still some questions about where the line would be and what would become an OPEGA project versus the type of research that the OFPR staff might do.

Sen. Bennett asked what is unique to OPEGA versus OFPR.

Ms. Henderson stated that within the context of the new 30-day projects, it seems that these projects are looking for additional information beyond what can be prepared in the normal processing of a bill. Some additional research about what other states have related or similar or how other states approach the topic that may be different and we should be aware of. She added that the explanation is somewhat theoretical as no request has been made yet.

Sen. Bennett stated that was helpful and thought it would be best to be circumspect about the resources and potential mission for OPEGA staff when considering the 30-day projects as he thought some of the

competencies may be best amplified within OFPR. He was concerned for how it will all play out in practice with respect to resources that the GOC and OPEGA uniquely have.

Ms. Henderson stated that the law included a provision requiring both OPEGA and OFPR to report to the Legislative Council about whether additional staff are needed to perform the functions in the legislation by January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025, meaning that there will be time for the Directors of both offices to weigh in on the effects on staff resources.

Rep. Fay asked if there were any Expedited Reviews currently happening. Ms. Henderson answered no.

Rep. Mastraccio asked if there was a process in the TAX Committee for things that have been categorized. Ms. Henderson stated that the Expedited Review process was a Taxation Committee Review in which OPEGA did not conduct an evaluation. The Committee was given data to then perform their own review. That work has been canceled and the preparation of that supporting data from OPEGA has been repealed. She clarified that she did not know whether the Taxation Committee would be performing any other review in place of the expedited process.

Rep. Mastraccio stated that she wondered what the TAX Committee did before the statute change and thought it would be appropriate to ask them what their plan is for the review of these expenditures. She was curious when it would be done and how.

Sen. Hickman asked what the legislative intent of the policy committee was in repealing that part of the statute.

Ms. Henderson answered that she could not speak to the intent of the TAX Committee, but noted that the recommendation to repeal that part was made by the Tax Expenditure Review Working Group. Her understanding was that the members of that group thought the process in the past was somewhat imperfectly structured, bringing just enough information to the TAX Committee to pique interest and raise questions but not enough resource or structure to get answers to those questions.

Ms. Hojara presented the OPEGA recommendations to the Committee regarding the annual review and approval of the categories to which tax expenditures are assigned and the schedule according to which they will be evaluated.

Sen. Bennett asked why it was being recommended to move something to the expedited list.

Ms. Hojara answered that OPEGA is recommending to take an expenditure that was in the no review list and moving it to the expedited list. She explained that although that process is now gone, OPEGA is intending to bring the Committee a proposal to look at that expedited category and whether there is a different process for those.

Sen. Bennett stated that since there is no process, it doesn't matter where they get moved to. He noted that the Dirigo Business Incentives Program Tax Credit was ahead of others being reviewed even though it would not take effect until 2025. He suggested putting it at the end of the list since it won't have any data until after that date.

Ms. Hojara explained that it would be.

Sen. Tipping asked about the list of reports that have not been reviewed by the Taxation Committee and wanted to ask if there was any reason those have not been taken up since 2020.

Ms. Hojara answered that Covid seemed to be a factor but that there also seems to be a new desire to get caught up and moving forward.

Rep. Mastraccio asked if there was a way to be notified or added to the Taxation interested parties list. Ms. Hojara answered that she did not have access to that list but could notify the Committee of when the Taxation Committee expects to meet to discuss these.

Motion: To approve the category changes and proposed schedule of the Tax Expenditure Reviews as suggested by OPEGA

(Motioned by Rep. Mastraccio, Seconded by Sen. Keim, unanimous yes) (Rep. Arata and Rep. Blier voted in accordance with the GOC Rules)

#### Customer Call Wait Times

Sen. Hickman invited the Director of the Office of Child and Family Services Todd Landry and the Government Relations Director of DHHS, Molly Bogart to join the Committee to discuss call wait times within the Department.

(The Department's most recent letter regarding call wait times can be viewed here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10317">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10317</a>)

Rep. Fay asked if there was any new data regarding the unwinding of MaineCare and whether times have improved or not.

Ms. Bogart answered that she could get the latest data and mentioned the dashboard of the unwinding data, but that it might not include call center metrics. She mentioned making sure the Committee has the dashboard to track the progress of the unwinding process.

Sen. Tipping noted that from previous submissions that there was an issue with relatively long wait times compared to other states before the unwinding process and asked if there was data for that over time.

Ms. Bogart answered yes, and explained that they have a report that is published annually that presents data going back five years.

Sen. Tipping asked how the fifty new contract staff were affecting the current wait times and what of those measures are considered to be permanent and what are the goals for the future.

Ms. Bogart answered that the contract staff are intended for the period of unwinding. Any ongoing capacity would go through appropriations.

Sen. Tipping appreciated the response. He asked about the availability to reach some of the state programs by phone and whether the department had any information on that.

Ms. Bogart answered that it would not be a part of the call center they are focusing on and that it may be something that they contract with partners to support. She added she would look into that further for the Committee.

Sen. Tipping asked what correspondence has taken place with the federal government since the warning was issued.

Ms. Bogart answered that they have provided the information to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and will continue to be in touch with them. She stated that there have been no additional citations of concerns heard

Sen. Tipping noted that in a previous letter it was stated that the primary cause of long wait times is a workforce size compared to the workload that staff are collectively responsible for addressing and that the imbalance impacts the wait times of calls and in person contact. He asked if there are any plans to address that broader workforce issue.

Ms. Bogart answered that she would check with the Office of Financial Independence on that.

Sen. Tipping read a statement from an employee of OFI.

(The statement can be listened to here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/audio/#220?event=89429&startDate=2023-10-18T09:30:00-04:00">https://legislature.maine.gov/audio/#220?event=89429&startDate=2023-10-18T09:30:00-04:00</a>, time stamp: 10:35:43 AM)

Sen. Tipping asked if any of the broader issues noted in the employees' statement were things that the Department was seeing happening.

Ms. Bogart answered that she would need to discuss with the team. She noted that on the tool side of things, the system is always under review and improvement but she could not speak to whether it is meeting current needs or not. She stated she would get an update on the improvements of those tools for the Committee.

Rep. Mastraccio noted that there seemed to be confusion between Medicare and Medicaid. She noted that it was important that they still make sure that folks know what they can and cannot have access to through the phone lines.

Ms. Bogart answered that they have a message that plays while people are on hold and suggested that may be a place to think about ensuring that people know they only handle Medicaid not Medicare.

Sen. Tipping noted that the DHHS Website very specifically under the Office of Aging and Disability Services says that the office and its partners are committed to providing individuals assistance with navigating Medicare and provides a number with DHHS Office of Aging and Disability Resource Center, so it is a service that DHHS does advertise and provide.

Rep. Fay asked if the Medicare programs that help low income older folks afford their Premiums and the drugs for elderly program eligibility, if those eligibilities are accessed through OFI or OSS or if there is a sort of cross pollination there so that someone can call looking for eligibility determination and they end up in the right place for what they are determined eligible for.

Ms. Bogart explained that those are Medicaid programs that help support individuals that are Medicare eligible. She noted that it is a good illustration of the amount of work that happens to make sure folks are accessing the correct resources and make it more efficient for clients and staff.

Rep. Fay asked for clarification on whether there is a handoff between the offices that allows transfers to the right place without additional wait time.

Ms. Bogart answered that on the OFI side there is a first connection with a worker that puts a person in the eligibility queue, so they hope to catch people there. She suggested the 211 Maine number that is a resource that is funded through the department and managed through the Office of Behavioral Health that is available for people to ask about Medicare eligibility.

Rep. Fay was concerned that people on the ground may not understand or know to call 211 Maine first.

Sen. Keim asked how many people are currently enrolled in MaineCare.

Ms. Bogart answered that the number is listed on the dashboard.

Sen. Keim asked when the last time it was updated.

Ms. Bogart was not sure but stated there should be a recent number.

Sen. Keim wondered how many within that figure are being put in the unwind.

Ms. Bogart answered that there is a requirement for an annual eligibility screening and so within the unwinding period, the Department is required to restart that annual reevaluation.

Sen. Keim asked how the renewals are handled.

Ms. Bogart answered that there are a handful of ways that they are gone through. She noted the new functionality called ex passive renewal that means that if the access to information to confirm eligibility is found through other resources that individual does not need to return any materials to the Department. She noted that they send mail to applications, with a new campaign to tell people that "if it is blue, it is time to renew".

Sen. Keim asked if there was an estimate on the number of people that currently are enrolled in MaineCare that should be unwound.

Ms. Bogart answered that the current estimate is between sixty and ninety thousand people and noted that the unwinding dashboard has information about how many people have been renewed or have been deemed ineligible.

Sen. Tipping asked if there was an updated abandonment rate and if there is a sense of how many people who would be eligible for health care or services that have not been able to access it because they have not been able to get through the phone lines.

Ms. Bogart answered that she did not have an estimate for that.

Sen. Tipping asked if the people who abandon the call ever call back.

Ms. Bogart answered that she did not know if they have that capability to find that out.

- Sen. Tipping noted that the wait time numbers went from seventy-one minutes in 2022 to one hundred six minutes earlier in 2023 and wondered if there were updated numbers for the Department to share. Ms. Bogart answered that those could be provided.
- Sen. Timberlake stated that it seemed to be a problem that people are expected to call or go online to fill out forms. He was concerned that there is a lack of personal touch. He asked if that has been taken into consideration for the future.
- Ms. Bogart answered that although the online resources are available they recognize that folks often want that individual conversation. She emphasized that they are committed to making sure that things are available and more efficient and effective. She also clarified that in person conversation at offices are also still available.
- Sen. Bennett stated that his understanding from the Appropriations process was that forty million dollars was to be removed from the budget with the recognition that the Department expected ninety thousand people would be dropped from MaineCare and related programs. He asked if that number is still valid or if the Legislature would end up needing to re-appropriated or increase the appropriation of MaineCare because of what appears to be not getting to that number.
- Ms. Bogart answered that the unwinding numbers are just from a couple of months but did not know whether they over shot or undershot the estimate. She noted that some of the new Medicaid initiatives over the last couple years may shift the numbers as they get to implementation of those things.
- Sen. Bennett wanted to make sure that people who rightfully deserve the services get them and people who don't need them don't get them. He noted concern about the passive kind of approach seems to be putting the process in a sort of autopilot.
- Ms. Bogart clarified that the passive process is only for Medicaid and not for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF or the other programs that the Department administers.
- Sen. Timberlake noted that the Office of Child and Family Services shared that the telephone call wait time average is two minutes. He asked how long before someone gets back to the client with help.
- Director Landry answered that when a call comes in to intake with a concern about potential child abuse or neglect, there is a base assessment from the intake workers that determines whether to screen the call if it is appropriate for investigation or not. If it is appropriate for investigation there are time frames as it gets assigned to a district office for specific investigation. Depending on the severity of the allegation, it could be a 24-hour response or a 72-hour response or longer, up to a week.
- Sen. Timberlake asked if a parent calls because their child was being taken away to a mental health facility how long should the response time be to that client.
- Director Landry answered that in that situation it would not be an alleged abuse or neglect against the parents, so it would not be investigated, but would be supported through the Children's Behavioral Health Services unit that would work with the hospital or law enforcement.
- Sen. Timberlake read a statement from a constituent that explained the situation. He stated that he did not care whether this was about the parents being abusive instead of the children because it is the Office of Child and Family Services and it should fit into "Family". He stated that it bothered him that the calls can be answered in two minutes but there is no timeline on how long it takes to get someone to the door.
- Director Landry clarified that the information being shared was part of the Committee's specific request about the child abuse neglect intake hotline. He explained that the situation Sen. Timberlake seemed to be talking about would be regarding the Children's Behavioral Health Services which his office does act and provide services to help families navigate that system. He explained that they do not directly provide services, but can fund or coordinate those services and help put programs in place for more community-based services through contracts and trainings. He stated in that situation, he would expect staff to be working with the hospital and family to help navigate the system so that the youth can receive the services needed.

Sen. Hickman stated that there is no intake line for the Children's Behavioral Services.

Ms. Bogart answered that there is not an 800 line for the Children's Behavioral Health Services. She noted the Maine Crisis Line, 988, that is used to serve both adults and children who are in a current crisis.

Sen. Hickman asked what number a family like the example Sen. Timberlake gave would call.

Ms. Bogart answered that if a child is with emergency personnel or law enforcement that the family can call 988 to discuss case management or future referrals.

Director Landry noted that the 988 line would be for individuals in crisis and then once it is an active case there are individuals, case managers or hospital staff that will be made available to the families.

Sen. Timberlake stated that in this example he gave they called 988 and there was no response from any DHHS staff to help this family when the child is being released from the hospital and still is struggling mentally.

Director Landry stated that there are ongoing communications that are attempted within specific cases as it relates to Children's Behavioral Health and working with hospitals about appropriate discharge of youth similar to the situation described. He noted that it was very challenging and they will continue to work with the hospitals to help navigate this relationship and discuss the potential need for inpatient hospitalization or a longer stay.

Sen. Timberlake asked Sen. Hickman for help in clarifying the information he was looking for.

Sen. Hickman asked Director Landry if the Department could provide information regarding the calling of the 988 line.

Director Landry answered that they can provide the Committee with staff expectations and the practice and policies as it relates to staff returning phone calls once information is received.

Sen. Hickman asked if Director Landry would be able to determine or report to the Committee on any general response times to when a situation is dealt with after triage.

Director Landry explained that they would be able to provide the general expectations and feedback as to how long it generally takes, but there is not a system in place nor is it requested of case workers to track individual phone calls and when the return is made.

Sen. Keim asked for clarification on the Children's Behavioral Health Services and whether the Department has purview to step in and help people who have called 988.

Director Landry explained that the individual staffing the calls may be able to provide immediate information to the caller about what options are available or where to go to seek help. The options are based on the crisis and what the family may want to do. He noted that at that stage case manager or specialist would not be involved but could get involved at the next stage when the hospital starts working with the family and will reach out to say the child appears to need a residential treatment placement.

Sen. Keim clarified that they are simply referring the people to more services. She asked if this process was the same if it was a foster child who is under DHHS custody.

Director Landry answered that if the child is in state custody, the resource parents would generally seek to address the crisis or situation and may call 988 or may call law enforcement, but they are also trained to contact the Department whether that be their caseworker or the supervisor directly.

Sen. Keim noted a different scenario of teachers with children in crisis and that it doesn't seem that they would be getting any help from calling any number.

Director Landry stated that if the child was not in state custody, they would suggest the parents be contacted as they would be the ones making any decision.

Sen. Tipping asked if there were concerns within OCFS about people being able to access health care services because they are having trouble accessing Medicaid in relation to services being available.

Director Landry answered with regard to Children's Behavioral Health Services. He noted the state budget included approximately sixteen to twenty million dollars for new investments into Children's Behavioral Health Services but explained that they have not been able to implement anything yet.

Sen. Tipping stated that he is only concerned because people have told him that they have tried to access aid and have not been able to receive it.

- Ms. Bogart answered that there is partnership with medical providers and hospitals to help with eligibility because if someone comes in without coverage the provider would have just as much incentive to make sure they have a payment stream coming for the service provided.
- Sen. Tipping asked if there is any expedited process for individuals that do not have health care coverage and can't access that provider.
- Director Landry answered that they would help facilitate the application process and work with the family to get that done. He added that sometimes hospital staff may do the same thing. The process may be done at the same time as other family meetings or wherever the person is working with the Department.
- Ms. Bogart added that 988 does not discriminate based on coverage, and people in need should not worry about that piece if calling for a resource.
- Sen. Timberlake stated that similar to an emergency service (fire department for example) the Department should be able to take note of the time a call came in and how long it took to get information or response.
- Sen. Hickman asked if the records caseworkers have included when things are done.
- Director Landry answered that there is manual process; it could be pulled together, but it is not done on an aggregate situation.
- Sen. Duson suggested doing a randomly selected sample of files to review the records to come up with response times.
- Director Landry noted that they would be happy to consider that, and could work in close cooperation with the OPEGA staff as done before.
- Sen. Hickman asked if there was any value in going forward with requiring that case files have timestamps in them.
- Director Landry noted that in the realm of child abuse and neglect investigations, they would be able to provide information regarding the response times appropriate for investigations, but with children's behavioral health it becomes a much more complicated situation.
- Sen. Timberlake stated that even if a caseworker passes off the case to another entity, that they are still following up and checking to make sure the other agency is doing the job. He hoped they would take that responsibility.
- Rep. Fay stated that she was frustrated about some of the news reports recently in relation to all previous discussions related to Child Protection. She stated that at a future meeting she would like to have an update on the recommendations that have been provided to the Department around caseworkers. She wants to know about how training is going, retention rates, hiring and staffing, and further information on the assessment tools. She wanted to make sure that caseworkers have the proper tools to do their jobs.
- Rep. Mastraccio echoed the concerns. She added that she would love to hear Director Landry explain the Annual Progress and Service Report provided by the Department for fiscal year 2024. She stated that she thought the Committee and the Department internally should be looking to see if they really think things are getting better or not.
- Director Landry stated that the APSR is a required report that every state in the country that has responsibility for child protection must provide. He noted it is a three hundred and sixty-five-page report that the federal government requires. He encouraged the Committee to review the full report before focusing on the negative comments from the media that ignored any positivity within the Report.
- Rep. Mastraccio stated that she didn't want to know about additional data, because the fact is that there have been more deaths recently than before the Committee started this work. She thought that the Committee and the Legislature have failed and that they need to accomplish more.
- Sen. Keim stated that she was shocked and horrified that news keeps coming out and stated that if there was a vote today, she would take a vote of no confidence in Director Landry. She stated that she would also take a vote of no confidence in the Committee for taking so much time themselves. She stated that the bureaucracy can wait out the legislators because of term limits. She suggested coming back more often to do the work needed to get to the bottom of these issues.
- Sen. Timberlake stated that being on the GOC was the first time within his tenure at the Legislature that he worked on a Committee that was fully non-partisan. He noted that he mentioned two years ago that this needed

to be a priority then, yet they are still in the same place. He agreed with meeting more often to figure out a solution.

Sen. Hickman stated that he appreciated that the Committee is grading themselves not very highly and that they need to go about doing their work in a different way.

Sen. Bennett agreed the Committee needed to find a way of working differently. He recommended the Chairs and Leads get together immediately after the meeting to discuss an expedited schedule. He stated that this crisis demands the Committee's full attention and they need to be focused on this.

Sen. Duson reminded that there is Blue Ribbon Commission established to review the services and activities of the Department of Health and Human Services and she was set to chair that commission. She noted that most of the appointees are also HHS Committee members so there is a long history and experience with these issues among the group. She hoped to figure out how to proceed without needing to go back to the beginning. She hoped to work collaboratively with the Committee, the HHS Committee and OPEGA to help move this work forward.

## **Director's Report**

Director Schleck noted a compendium of the Committee's and OPEGA's history of work on oversight of Maine child protective services. (A copy of this document can be found here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10323">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10323</a>)

Rep. Fay asked if there was anything that prevents the Committee from meeting more frequently.

Director Schleck answered that the Clerk would request dates and times from members to determine availability and they would make sure the Committee room is clear to be scheduled for those dates.

Sen. Hickman asked if the Committee would need more authorization to meet more often than scheduled. Director Schleck noted that there would be a request through the Presiding Officers to fully approve additional meeting times outside of the current schedule.

Rep. Mastraccio thought that they needed to meet more frequently, but stated that the Committee needed to know what they were going to meet about beforehand. She noted Director Schleck's compendium and shared that it is helpful to click the links and go back and read the minutes.

Director Schleck noted that the next deliverable will be on November 15<sup>th</sup> of the third casefile of the tragic death of Jaden Harding. He appreciated that the Committee wanted to get to the next place where they are reducing the number of incidents and transforming the system in a meaningful way.

Sen. Timberlake thanked the Director for the compendium and agreed with Rep, Mastraccio that they need to have a plan before meeting: a goal to reach each time. He suggested weekly meetings if necessary.

Rep. Millett agreed with everything said regarding future meetings. He stated he would appreciate a roadmap which has the Committee's proposed journey spelled out with what is needed from the Department. He stated that the quicker they get some actual strategies out the sooner they can talk about what's going on and take action toward changes.

# Next GOC meeting date and planning

The next GOC meeting will be on November 1, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

## **Unfinished Business**

Director Schleck noted a consultation with the State Auditor regarding the Maine Veterans' Homes and shared that it is not necessarily something that the Auditor would take up based on his parameters. The Auditor did not note any indicators of fraud. Director Schleck noted that there were still potential for waste and abuse elements related MVH spending. He noted that this could be something that can be revisited in the spring

after the Committee has completed the important child protection work they would like to currently prioritize going forward.

Sen. Bennett asked for clarification on what the State Auditor letter means with its response stating that it is not necessary. He wondered about the last line stating that his office would do the review if the Committee thought it should be done. He asked if the Auditor was asking the Committee to revote something they already agreed on.

Director Schleck stated that he did not want to speak for the Auditor stated this was a far question. Sen. Hickman suggested discussing this further at another meeting but clarified that the Committee voted to assess internal controls, relative timeliness of accounts payable and to the extent to which internal data and systems including purchasing, payroll and human resources adequately supports and informs spending within established budgetary limits. He clarified that it is the State Auditor's opinion that the Committee doesn't need to do it, but stated he disagreed.

Director Schleck also shared that there is a correspondence from the HHS Committee regarding their engagement with the safety of employees at Riverview (and Dorothea Dix) which indicates that they are meeting this month. (A copy of this document can be found here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10321">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10321</a>) He also shared a HHS Committee letter addressing the Public Guardianship matter that was brought by Sen. Keim. (A copy of this document can be found here: <a href="https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10320">https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/10320</a>)

## Adjourn

The Chair, Sen. Hickman, adjourned the Government Oversight Committee meeting at 12:28 AM on a motion by Sen. Hickman, Second by Rep. Fay.