

Riverview and Dorothea Dix

- **May 23, 2023:** The GOC received a request for an OPEGA review of employee safety issues, appropriate staffing (including potential difficulties with recruitment and retention), and relevant resources for workers at Riverview (RPC) and Dorothea Dix (DDPC). The request was presented by Senator Tipping on behalf of himself and Rep. Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.
- **August 16, 2023:** The GOC voted to send a letter to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (the HHS Committee) to ask if the HHS Committee could consider the substantive issues of the request letter and respond to the GOC with potential recommendations for moving forward by the GOC’s October 18, 2023, meeting.
- **August 18, 2023:** The GOC Chairs’ and Leads’ letter was sent to the HHS Committee.
- **September 11, 2023:** The HHS Committee responded to the GOC that two meetings were scheduled in October 2023 at which time the HHS Committee would request RPC and DDPC updates on staffing and safety measures. The HHS Committee also provided additional information about that Committee’s oversight of the facilities.
- **September 3, 2024:** The GOC received a letter from Rep. LaRoche and Rep. Bridgeo requesting an OPEGA review and GOC Committee hearing. The letter noted that the HHS Committee had held a hearing to discuss occupational safety in the state psychiatric facilities in the previous session, but the hearing did not include staff testimony. The letter expressed concern about continuing staff safety issues and potential understaffing. The letter requested an OPEGA review of the injury rate at the facilities followed by a public hearing regarding staff recruitment, retention, and safety.

Potential Next Step

- Before the Committee decides whether to direct an OPEGA review, it is suggested that the Committee direct OPEGA to obtain additional information in support of a future Committee decision:

Topic	Data
Staffing Ratios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing ratios vs. requirements and actual staffing ratios during times when injuries occurred (cy 2022, 2023, 2024 to date).
Injury Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPC and DDPC have provided information on injury rates in the past to the HHS Committee and could be asked for updated figures (cy 2022, 2023, and 2024 to date)
Staff Safety Resources and Training, Recruitment, and Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current staff vacancy rates at the facilities, and descriptions of: recruitment and retention strategies and challenges; and resources provided to workers, including to help prevent or respond to injuries.

- With current data, including as to trends, the Committee could be in a better position to assess this potential OPEGA project in relation to other Committee priorities and available resources, including whether there is a need or desire for interviews of employees.