

Legislative Performance Audit

Committee

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Scope Statement

State Foster Care Review Board

Introduction

On January 10, 2008, the Legislative Performance Audit Committee directed the Legislative Performance Audit Section (Section) to conduct an audit of the State Foster Care Review Board (FCRB). This scope statement briefly describes the agency and sets forth the specific questions the Section will answer during the audit.

Background

Created in 1982 as an independent, non-code state agency. Among other things, the FCRB is required to: (1) track foster children in out-of-home care; (2) review each foster child's case and making recommendations on his/her permanency plan; and (3) report foster care trends. The FCRB consists of eleven members, who are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. The board appoints the agency's Executive Director.

In September 2007, the Ombudsman issued a report in response to allegations of illegal acts by the FCRB's Executive Director. The Ombudsman determined that no violations of law had occurred, but suggested that the FCRB follow-up with an independent investigation of the Executive Director's actions and management practices to determine if she had acted appropriately and according to regulations that govern the FCRB. This perceived need to "clear the air" was, in part, the reason a performance audit was requested.

Since January, when the performance audit topic was adopted, Performance Audit Section staff have done extensive research on the FCRB and its statutory obligations, operations, and authority, as well as external management standards and best practices. The Section interviewed all current (as of February 1, 2008) FCRB members and the Executive Director to solicit concerns and issues that they would like to have considered in the performance audit.

Audit Scope

In this audit, the Section will answer the following questions:

- What are the FCRB's authority and responsibilities?
- Do any board members have employment or other interests that create a conflict with their responsibilities as members of the FCRB?
- Do current FCRB management practices reasonably follow generally accepted management standards and best practices?

Scope Statement adopted by the Legislative Performance Audit Committee April 8, 2008.